

Monday January 19 1998

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# The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Martin Kettle on dinner with Bill Clinton

## White House wise guys

G2 with European weather

Return of the Mac

## Who will get the knife?

G2 pages 10-11

Sport

## England race to victory in West Indies

This section, Page 12

# Dole blow for job insurance claimants

Loan and mortgage pay-outs to be deducted from benefit

David Hencke  
Westminster Correspondent

**M**ILLIONS of people who believe they are protected from penury by taking out personal loan and mortgage protection policies against losing their jobs will find themselves denied unemployment benefit under a new government crackdown.

The step follows a ruling by the Benefits Agency that left a young County Durham man with £2 a month to live on because his dole office deducted £157 a month — the payout to him on his car loan and credit card insurance — from his monthly Jobseeker's Allowance of £160.

People who try to avoid the benefit deduction by instructing their insurance companies to pay the money directly to those demanding settlement of their debts face prosecution for benefit fraud.

The regulations, a copy of which have been passed to the Guardian, state that "insurance policy income should be taken fully into account" before benefit is paid out.

Allowance in 1996. But their serious implementation began only in November, when dole offices tightened administration as part of Harriet Harman's drive to drive down the £100 billion benefits bill.

On mortgage protection policies, exceptions will be made only for what the Benefits Agency thinks is a standard housing allowance for the person involved. Any excess will be deducted from benefit.

The bankers' association, which represents many of the main policy providers, said it had not known about the problem until Mr Foster had pointed it out.

"In the light of this, we shall review with our members their current arrangements," he added.

# Killing renews fears for peace

Blair meets Sinn Fein chiefs today

John Mulvan  
Ireland Correspondent

**T**HE Prime Minister will meet the Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at Downing Street again today, as the Northern Ireland peace process lurches towards crisis once more after yesterday's murder of another Catholic.

Mr Blair's spokesman denied the meeting had been arranged either as a hasty response to Mr McGuinness's weekend condemnation of the Prime Minister's blueprint for a political settlement, or to the Loyalist Volunteer Force's murder of Fergal McCusker, who was aged 28.

Fein found wholly unacceptable the outline document presented to the multi-party talks last week as the British and Irish government view of the best way forward. Anger in the nationalist community was running deep, he warned.

ships involving London, Dublin, Belfast and the Scottish and Welsh assemblies. It is an Ulster Unionist idea, and rejected by Sinn Fein.

McQueen bounces back



Alexander McQueen proved his critics wrong at his spring/summer haute couture show in Paris yesterday, writes Susannah Frankel. The models resembled a chorus of Madam Butterflies for the next millennium, showing the designer's vivid imagination to the full. Hubert de Givenchy recently described McQueen's appointment as a designer as a "total disaster".

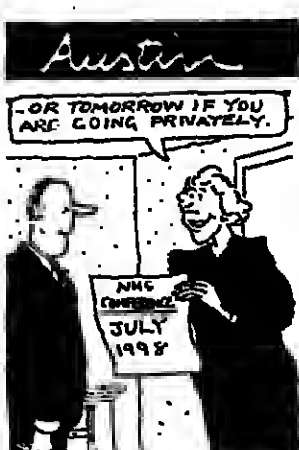
## Heroin supply to UK 'cut off'

Luke Harding

**D**ETECTIVES have smashed a drugs ring responsible for the importation of almost all of Britain's heroin. It was claimed last night.

Scotland Yard said it strongly believed supply of heroin into the UK had been broken after officers moved in on a Turkish cartel operating in north London. The gang is believed to have been delivering up to 100kg of heroin, with a street value of £20 million, across the country each week — more than £1 billion a year.

## Bupa invited to fund NHS review



**B**UPA, the private health insurer, has been invited to sponsor a review of the future of the National Health Service as part of this year's celebrations of the service's 50th anniversary.

The review, intended to consider what the NHS will be like in 2020, is to report to an international conference in London in July. More than 4,000 delegates are expected.

the NHS at Westminster Abbey, attended by the Queen.

<b>Inside</b> The discontent among Labour Party members about welfare reform is highlighted in replies to a questionnaire. Page 5	<b>Britain</b> The Chancellor flies to Brussels today to defuse a row over Italy's ability to meet criteria for single currency. Page 6	<b>World News</b> Britain's chancellor flies to Brussels today to defuse a row over Italy's ability to meet criteria for single currency. Page 6	<b>Sport</b> Scotland's cricket team are set to defeat the Londoners 3-1. Sport section, page 10	<b>Comment and Letters</b> Comment 26 Quick Crossword 35 TV, Radio and Weather 40
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### Customer gets mini-statement from cash machine.

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Minister ends cover-up over failed coding project □ 'Conflict of interest' as system's inventor oversees its development for health service

# Fiasco of NHS computers exposed

David Hencke  
Westminster Correspondent

**A** MINISTER is intervening today to force the NHS Executive to end a two-year cover-up over a senior member of staff whose computer company has made £2.6 million from a failed project for the health service.

Alan Milburn, minister of state at the Department of Health, has ordered the immediate approval and early publication of a damning

National Audit Office report into the £20 million development of a nationwide computer code which was supposed to standardise patient care.

The NHS, meanwhile, is to pay out another £3 million in royalties to the man's company. The deal expires in 1999.

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, ordered the investigation into the "conflict of interest" surrounding the appointment of James Read, inventor of the code, as chief executive on £70,000 a year at the NHS's

Centre for Coding and Classification, which used taxpayers' money to develop the system and urged hospitals to use it.

The centre was set up in Loughborough, Leicestershire, across the road from the headquarters of Mr Read's company, Computer Assisted Medical Systems, run by his brother Robert, which promoted the system.

Mr Read's company made £7.4 million from royalties for developing the system, which provided a computer language to classify all illnesses, parts of the body and treat-

ments, so that standardised letters could be sent to GPs once a patient was discharged from hospital.

Mr Reid was also paid £1.2 million to sign the original deal, half of which went to the company and half to himself. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, admits in a letter to Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, that of 22 hospitals that adopted the system, 10 have stopped using it. Of the remainder, only two use it in its entirety.

Under the deal, Mr Read's company could get commission if the schema were

adopted abroad, and a big effort was made to sell it in New Zealand.

The audit office's draft report is said to be highly critical of the deal and of Mr Read's appointment. It attacks the former head of information technology at the NHS Executive, Ray Rogers, for agreeing it and also exposes breaches of personnel policy at the NHS, involving the promotion of staff when Mr Read was chief executive of the centre.

Since the audit office began its inquiries, Mr Rogers has opted for early retirement

and Mr Read has been moved to an IT consultancy. His NHS pay is understood to have risen to £90,000 a year.

Civil servants at the ministry, including the former permanent secretary Sir Graham Hart, are said to have delayed agreeing the report because of the embarrassment it would cause senior officials. They are said to have sought to moderate its language and to delay publication until the project could be presented as a success.

Two versions of an evaluation report on the use of the code at Withyash General

Hospital in Pembrokeshire have been placed in the House of Commons Library. One contains strong evidence that the system is still faulty, with keying difficulties, mapping irregularities and a thesaurus that is "unwieldy and error prone".

The other report appears to be a censored version, omitting the criticisms. The success data also appear to have been rigged to avoid revealing the main difficulties with the system.

Publication will embarrass Stephen Dorrell, the former health secretary. He ap-

proved the original deal while under-secretary at the ministry in 1990, and expanded its development while health secretary in 1995. Mr Dorrell has no personal connection, however, with his former constituent, Mr Read.

Last night Mr Morgan, who originally exposed the deal, said: "This scandal is one of the highest conflicts of interest known in the NHS and it is high time the facts were published. Millions of pounds of taxpayers' money has been put into a system which has been dropped by nearly half the hospitals that used it."

## Review: Joanna Coles in New York



Ragtime... the trademark broken rhythm of the music is a telling metaphor for the cultural confusion of a nation on the brink of a new century

PHOTOGRAPH: CATHERINE ASHMORE

## Powerful, poignant tale of injustice in the land of the free

Ragtime  
Ford Centre, New York

**B**ROADWAY is back. In November The Lion King opened at the fabulously refurbished New Amsterdam, and last night the new Ford Centre, a superbly ambitious and successful amalgam of the old Lyric and the Apollo, opened on 42nd Street with Ragtime.

It is a brilliant choice, showing once again that there is an alternative to Andrew Lloyd Webber's dumpling-down of the genre. Not since Les Misérables has a musical tried to be this intelligent, and it succeeds on a grand scale.

Based on the novel by E L

Doctorow, Ragtime follows the fortunes of three families, white, black and Jewish, in the early 1900s against the backdrop of ragtime music. What better vehicle to show the cultural confusion beginning to unsettle America than ragtime's trademark "broken rhythm"? As a musical metaphor it is powerful, poignant and political, originating as it did among people who, as Booker T Washington memorably put it, "were born into slavery and emancipated into bitter poverty".

The opening scenes of "ladies with parasols and fellows with tennis balls" reflect the brief, fleeting optimism of an America at

long last freed from the grip of civil war. Railways are traversing the country, the industrial revolution is under way, as is the assembly-line production that will make the Model T Ford a reality. Waves of immigrants are washing up on New York shores in eager search of success, and Harry Houdini is wriggling free from his chains. So are the emancipated slaves trekking up north to seek economic freedom. But like Houdini's audiences, they are the victims of an illusion. Poverty, racial hatred and complacency greet them at every turn.

Throw in a handful of suffragettes and a sprinkling of early trade unionists and it

does not sound an easy night's entertainment. But the combination of Stephen Flaherty's music, Lynn Ahrens's lyrics (they worked together on the film of Anastasia), Terence (Kiss of the Spiderwoman) McNally's reworking of the novel for the stage, and Frank Galati's directing has produced an obvious Tony-award winner that will race into the millennium.

By scene three, the action is under way. Father has gone to sea for a year to go exploring, and in his absence Mother, his middle-class wife played by Marin Mazzie, takes in Sarah, a black woman who has given birth to an illegitimate boy. It is not giving too much

away to say that by the end of the first act, Sarah (magically played by Andrea McDonald) is dead, killed by the police, and her boyfriend, Coalhouse Walker Junior (Brian Stokes Mitchell), is out for a terrible revenge. Like most good tragedies, Ragtime's central theme is injustice. Coalhouse is doomed, and when Father returns from his voyage, the world and his wife have changed. His brother-in-law has turned into a political agitator and Tateh, a poor immigrant who arrived selling paper silhouettes, has made it big as a movie director. Nothing is as it seems: the old order has gone. "The era of ragtime

had run out, as if history were no more than a tune on a piano."

"Warn the duke!" a little boy keeps shouting mysteriously as Houdini announces he is off to perform in Sarajevo. Even greater change is under way. As they say here in New York: Go See.

## US Holocaust museum snubs Yasser Arafat

Martin Kettle in Washington

**A**N EMBARRASSED United States secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, criticised the Washington-based Holocaust museum yesterday for refusing to give Yasser Arafat the red-carpet treatment.

In an unwelcome row before visits to Washington this week by Mr Arafat and the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, Mrs Albright said that the Palestinian Authority chairman's visit to the museum should have been treated as a state visit and "would have been an important symbol".

Mr Arafat was persuaded by the White House and the state department that a visit to the museum would be an important gesture to US opinion and to Israelis, but broke off his plans on Friday when the museum's director said the Palestinian leader would not be treated as a head of state. Mr Arafat was welcome to visit as an individual, the museum said.

Mrs Albright said yesterday that the state department had "remonstrated with" the museum about its snub to Mr Arafat. "It would have been appropriate to have him treated as a VIP but I think that at some stage, whether on this visit or another one, some arrangement will be able to be made."

Mr Arafat is due in Washington on Thursday, two days after the Israeli leader. The plan for him to visit the museum was conceived by a US Middle East envoy, Aaron Miller, who thought he had persuaded the museum's chairman Miles Lerman, who is a death camp survivor, to accept a visit with full protocol.

Mr Arafat accepted the proposal, knowing that his visit would have been a highly



Yasser Arafat: 'welcome at museum as an individual'

charged gesture of reconciliation towards Jewish and other world opinion.

On Thursday the museum informed Mr Arafat that a VIP-level visit would not be acceptable. Mr Lerman and the museum's director, Walter Reich, said they had decided "not to get involved in a political dispute".

"The doors are open from 10 in the morning to 5.30 in the afternoon," Mr Lerman was quoted as saying.

On hearing the news, Mr Arafat immediately cancelled his plans. "He said yes. They said no. It's as simple as that," his spokesman said. "Somebody is still living in the past."

A Palestinian official was quoted as saying that the museum's decision expressed "a hostile sentiment against Palestinians, Yasser Arafat and what he represents" and did not help the Middle East peace process.

"We would have liked to send a message, not only to Jews but to the entire world, that we have no problem with any race or creed and support peace. But they insist on stereotyping us unfairly."

## Blair seeks Tories' help over EU

Prime Minister asks Europhiles to join campaign courting more public support for the union

Anne Perkins  
Political Correspondent

**T**ONY BLAIR is to make an unprecedented appeal to pro-European Tories to join him in a campaign to turn public opinion in favour of the European Union. In a move some Conservatives regard as a blatant attempt to worsen their divisions and hasten realignment, Mr Blair will ask them to help build a national pro-European consensus.

The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, has already signed up for a cross-party campaign. He said in a radio interview yesterday that it was the "best time for 100 years" for "finding a gathering point for the natural liberal majority".

But Michael Heseltine, the Tory whom Labour would most like to recruit to a pro-European campaign, said last night that he had not been directly approached and would not do anything which conflicted with his position as a Conservative MP and former deputy prime minister. He did, however, acknowledge the need to fight for public



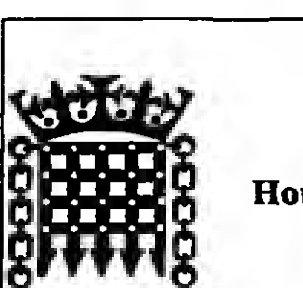
Now is the 'best time for 100 years' for 'finding a gathering point for the natural liberal majority'

— Paddy Ashdown



'There is a very serious propaganda attempt by certain newspapers and groups of politicians to disparage what we gain from the European Union, and it is necessary to counter that'

— Michael Heseltine



House of Commons and House of Lords

Review of Parliamentary Privilege

## PARLIAMENT WANTS YOUR VIEWS

A joint committee of both Houses of Parliament chaired by a Law Lord (Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead) is looking at what special rights members of Parliament need to carry out their duties, e.g. freedom of speech, freedom to regulate their own affairs.

A short paper setting out the issues and questions is available free of charge by telephoning 0171 219 3327, by faxing 0171 219 0620 and on the Internet at: <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/privpnt1.htm>

## LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

Please send your comments by 16th March 1998 to:

The Secretary  
Information Office  
House of Lords  
LONDON  
SW1A 0PW



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### Top flops

**New Year** BBC2, September 1991, 143,000 viewers, opera by Michael Tippett

**Blond Eckbert** Channel 4, July 1994, 152,000 viewers, opera by Judith Weir

**Turn of the Screw** BBC2, August 1994, 167,000 viewers, opera by Benjamin Britten

**Silent Love** Channel 4, December 1994, 190,000 viewers, short German film

**Good Friday 1663** Channel 4, March 1990, 193,000 viewers, opera by Mike and Kate Westbrook

**St Francis of Assisi** BBC2, December 1988, 194,000 viewers, opera by Olivier Messiaen

**Soviet Music** BBC2, May 1990, 197,000 viewers

**Listening Eye** Channel 4, June 1990, profile of work with Britain's deaf

**Heaven Ablaze in His Breast** BBC2, May 1991, 200,000 viewers, ballet by Judith Weir and Ian Spink

**Impulse** BBC2, July 1991, 200,000 viewers, cartoon on advertising

Source: Broadcast Magazine/Barb



Michael Tippett: his opera was least-watched TV show

The list contains three or four of the most talented people of the 20th century and it shows to anyone with half a brain that opera does not work on television. You wouldn't put Teletubbies on at Covent Garden, would you?

A A Gill, television critic

Mike and Kate Westbrook's opera *Good Friday 1663* (above left) attracted only 193,000 viewers to Channel 4, while Helen Mirren in *Prime Suspect* (above right) draws up to 10 million

## A nation switches off as the fat lady sings

Opera is Britain's least favourite television fare. **Kamal Ahmed** reports on a cultural low note

IT IS enough to make the arts establishment squirm. A report on the broadcaster's nightmare — television programmes that receive such dismal viewing figures that they score zero on the ratings chart — reveals that opera is the art form that gets Britain's most readily for the off button.

The study of the 40 lowest rated programmes in the last 10 years gives opera the dubious distinction of holding the bottom three places.

The figures, based on prime time viewing patterns and not including Channel 5, show that other arts programmes perform almost as badly. Classical music, programmes on arts exhibitions,

Kenneth Branagh and Sir John Gielgud all appear on the list, along with wheelchair basketball, a documentary about Jewish mysticism, and *Burning Books*, a literary discussion programme.

The figures, compiled by Broadcast magazine and based on statistics from the British Audience Research Bureau, put Michael Tippett's opera, *New Year*, at the bottom of the list. The opera, which was specially commissioned for television, attracted only 143,000 viewers on BBC2 in September 1991. The second lowest spot goes

to Judith Weir's opera, *Blood Wedding*, seen by 152,000 Channel 4 viewers in July 1994.

It is closely followed by Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, which drew 167,000 viewers to BBC2 in August 1994. Other miserable performers include *Silent Love*, a short German film on Channel 4, *Heaven Ablaze in His Breast*, a ballet by Judith Weir and Ian Spink shown on BBC2, and *Dancemakers* on the choreographer Martha Graham, also on BBC2. *Swan Song*, a short film by Kenneth Branagh on Sir John

Gielgud, shown on Channel 4, comes in at number 18 with 213,000 viewers.

"Britain's distaste for serialism, atonality, minimalism and most developments in music since Mahler is brutally plain," said William Phillips, who compiled the report. "Some of the composers are supposedly famous — Tippett, Britten, Messiaen — but even Puccini, often cited as the last opera writer in tune with the masses, makes the chart despite [Placido] Domingo's star role."

Receiving a zero rating during peak time means that fewer than 250,000 viewers, or 1 per cent, watched the programme. Popular shows such as *The Bill* and *Prime Suspect* draw audiences of up to 10 million. *Peak time* programmes on BBC2 and Chan-

nel 4 regularly receive more than a million viewers.

"The list contains three or four of the most talented people of the 20th century and it shows to anyone with half a brain that opera does not work on television," said A. A. Gill, the Sunday Times television critic. "You wouldn't put Teletubbies on at Covent Garden, would you?" Keith Cooper, marketing and broadcasting manager at the Royal Opera House, said it was still worthwhile broadcasting difficult operas. He said more mainstream operas

such as *La Traviata* and *Carmen* had been successful on television and that even 200,000 viewers meant opera was being introduced to a far wider audience than would visit an opera house. "The Royal Opera House holds 2,000 people so we would need to get full houses for 100 nights to reach to same number of people," he said. "And on television it is also much cheaper." Mr Cooper said the Opera House was looking at ways of using digital and pay-per-view television to get opera to a wider audience.

## Jones 'seeks Clinton deal'

Lawyer says sex claim could be settled with apology and money

Martin Kettle in Washington

**P**AULA Jones's lawyers went on a media offensive yesterday, fuelling renewed speculation that they are seeking an out-of-court settlement of the confrontation with Bill Clinton over sexual harassment allegations that finally forced the president to give embarrassing evidence to lawyers in Washington on Saturday.

Despite a court gagging order that forbids any discussion of what went on during more than six hours of questioning, four of Ms Jones's legal team and her adviser Susan Carpenter, McMillan did the rounds of the Sunday morning television talk shows in an apparent attempt to put pressure on Mr Clinton to reach a deal.

Ms Jones's Dallas-based lawyer, Jim Fisher, said that he now favoured an out-of-court settlement whereby the

president would have to offer money and "some manner of an apology" but need not "grovel".

Leaked reports last week suggesting that Ms Jones was seeking a \$2 million (£1.25 million) settlement were "not completely accurate", Mr Fisher said.

"We are not asking for President Clinton to grovel or to admit every minor detail of our complaint, but we think there should be some accountability."

The White House and Mr Clinton's lawyers refused to comment on Saturday's extraordinary scenes in Washington, but one of the president's advisers, James Carville, said: "This is nothing but a big money grab by Paula Jones."

Ms Jones was unavailable yesterday after spending Saturday sitting at a table with Mr Clinton for the first time as he gave evidence on her charges that he exposed himself to her in an Arkansas

hotel room and asked for oral sex in 1991, when he was state governor. Mr Clinton has always denied the charges. He is thought to have said on Saturday that he could not rule out the possibility that he had met Ms Jones, though he had no memory of the occasion.

In another development yesterday, Newsweek alleged that it had obtained sealed documents containing damaging evidence against both Mr Clinton and Ms Jones. According to the magazine, the Arkansas state trooper who is alleged to have acted as Mr Clinton's go-between in the meeting with Ms Jones has testified that he escorted other women to meet Mr Clinton, before and after he was elected president.

Danny Ferguson is alleged to have said that he escorted a woman to a 5.15am rendezvous with Mr Clinton in the Arkansas governor's mansion in January 1993, after his election as president but before his inauguration. Trooper Ferguson is said to have testified that Mr Clinton asked him to stand guard and watch out for the president's daughter, Chelsea, and to

have said he saw Mr Clinton and the woman embrace. The unnamed woman has refused to answer questions from lawyers, Newsweek says.

The magazine also says that Mr Clinton's lawyers have tracked down an Arkansas man who alleges that he picked up Ms Jones in a bar in 1991 some months before her alleged meeting with Mr Clinton and had sex with her in a car in a car park.

The case between Ms Jones and Mr Clinton is scheduled to be heard before a jury in Little Rock, Arkansas, starting on May 27. If the case is settled out of court, the questions of money and an apology, which Mr Clinton has so far refused to give, will be appermost. There is now also the awkward question of the videotape on which his evidence was recorded. Mr Clinton's advisers are reconciled to the likelihood that it will become publicly available at some stage, but they are determined to contest the contention by Ms Jones's lawyers that they own the copyright.

G2 cover story

### Private health insurer invited to sponsor NHS review

continued from page 1  
first research commissioned by the task force looks at ways of controlling demand for health care, including curbing unnecessary hospital referrals. The task force is to produce a draft report to the conference, setting out "scenarios of health care in 2020" and an "action agenda" for government and the NHS. Delegates will debate the ideas.

Bupa, which has more than 40 per cent of the private medical insurance market and also runs some 35 private hospitals, has been negotiating sponsorship of the task force along with drugs companies Lilly and Novartis.

Norwich Union, a smaller but emerging health insurer, has already agreed to be one of an expected 15 main sponsors of the conference. Each is paying £65,000.

Tim Baker, Norwich Union Healthcare's commercial director, said the company had been working with the NHS for several years. One of its most popular insurance packages guaranteed people treatment in the private wings of NHS trust hospitals. "We want to demonstrate our commitment to co-operating with the NHS and use the opportunity to show the sort of things we are doing."

Andrew Vallance-Owen, Bupa's medical director, said: "We are considering taking part in the task force, but we haven't confirmed anything yet." The conference is to be held at Earl's Court from July 1 to July 3, when the Westminster Abbey ceremony will take place. The 50th anniversary falls on Sunday July 5, NHS Day, when special events are planned around the country.



It appears that the ethic of afternoon TV has landed like a job lot on the doorsteps of the chattering classes. Everything must go, while stocks last: divorce, illness, abortion, fatherhood, motherhood, death, bereavement. Michael Collins on how media fell in love with the new honesty

G2 Media page 12

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4 BRITAIN

# Fourth victim of LVF terror

John Mullin  
Ireland Correspondent

**T**HE Loyalist Volunteer Force yesterday claimed responsibility for the murder of Fergal "Rick" McCusker, 28, near his home in the nationalist town of Maghera.

He is the fourth Catholic to die since the Irish National Liberation Army, opposed to the Ulster peace process, murdered the LVF leader, Billy Wright, at the Maze Prison three weeks ago. Friends saw Mr McCusker walking home in Upper Main Street at 1.15pm. He was a little drunk, but waved and called back. He was maybe 200 yards from his

front door. Six minutes later, the LVF shot him twice in the head.

Mr McCusker returned from the US two weeks ago. He had spent a year there, mainly in Boston doing odd jobs. He had started a new job with a heating contractor and plumbing firm.

On Saturday he had played football for Maghera Strollers. The LVF insisted he had been organising gun-running when he was in America.

Locals said that Mr McCusker, who was one of 10 brothers and sisters, was no terrorist. One woman, who has known his family for three decades, said: "He was just a normal Catholic boy. He was very popular. He liked his football, and played both



Fergal "Rick" McCusker (inset) who was found shot twice in the head yesterday

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN MCCULLOUGH

Gaelic and soccer. Rick was never one to have a political bone in his body. Gun-running? It's as much as he could do to get himself on a plane. I don't mean to be funny, but he just wasn't that calibre."

Each of the recent murders after Catholics has been claimed by the LVF. Seamus Dillon, 45, a former IRA prisoner, was the first to die, hours after Wright was shot dead on December 27. He was working as a doorman at the Clengannon Hotel, Dungannon, Co

Tyrone, and was killed as he tried to stop the gunmen getting close to a disco packed with 400 youngsters.

The next was Eddie Treanor, 31, a housing executive worker. He was drinking with his girlfriend in the Clifton Tavern in a Catholic pocket in north Belfast on New Year's Eve when the LVF raked the bar with gunfire.

Last Saturday's victim was Terry Knight, 22, a commercial worker and father of two

daughters. He was gunned down outside a Belfast city centre night club where he was working to earn some extra money for house improvements.

The latest attack appears to be designed to show that the LVF can operate throughout Northern Ireland. Its strongest base is Portadown, Co Armagh, but it has branched out into Belfast, Antrim — where it was mounting road checks this month — and even the republican strong-

hold of Co Fermanagh. It says its membership is mushrooming.

Mr McCusker was murdered behind the Fairhill Youth Club, next to St Mary's Church. There seems little doubt the attack was pitched at provoking a republican backlash.

The pressure is building on the IRA, with four killings unavenged and a blueprint for Northern Ireland's future which it says is wholly unacceptable.

## Don't apologise says Bloody Sunday officer

Stuart Miller

**T**HE commanding officer of the paratroopers who shot dead 14 anti-internment campaigners in Londonderry on Bloody Sunday will tonight urge Tony Blair not to apologise for the killings.

In a television interview, Lieutenant Colonel Derek Wilford maintains that blame for the events of January 30, 1972, should be laid with the politicians who ordered the Parachute Regiment into the city, and not with his soldiers.

Sunday, continues: "If people start talking about apologising, I think one has got to look at who was responsible for the decision to carry out that type of operation."

"What are they going to apologise for? Are they apologising for the government of the day? The military political machine of the day? Are they going to apologise on my behalf and my soldiers'?" I would have to warn them not to do so. They cannot apologise for me."

He is also critical of the authorities for failing to take advantage of the situation after he was ordered into the nationalist Bogside.

Although, he insists, his orders had been to carry out an arrest operation, and not to take over an IRA-controlled "no-go" area, his battalion had ended up occupying the area.

"They were offered an opportunity to take over the Bogside and regain proper control of it. They decided not to take that opportunity because there had been this shooting. I think they lost their nerve, frankly."

His comments come two days before the Prime Minister is expected to apologise in the Commons and order a fresh investigation of Bloody Sunday, which proved to be a turning point in the Troubles.

"I think the Prime Minister of the time should be the person discussing it," Lt Col Wilford tells a Channel 4 News investigation. "My soldiers behaved according to the very best standards of keeping the peace."

Lt Col Wilford, who left the army 10 years after Bloody

High level attempts begin to re-establish entente cordiale between Blair and Brown

## Official bid to reconcile 'foes'

### Ambassador who fell in love with UK

**Martin Kettle profiles**  
Raymond Seitz (right) the former US envoy who has accused the US of passing information to the IRA



**N**O United States ambassador to the United Kingdom in recent years has been so readily taken to the heart of the British establishment as Raymond Seitz, and no US ambassador has ended up so close to that heart either.

The much coveted post of ambassador to London is a political gift of the US president, and successive ambassadors, including the recently arrived Philip Lader, have always been political appointees.

Mr Seitz was different. The Honolulu born Yale graduate was the first career diplomat to be appointed to the post, and, though posted initially by President Bush to succeed Henry Catto in 1991, he was retained when Bill Clinton took over the White House in 1992. Mr Seitz was eventually succeeded by Admiral William Crowe in 1994.

Mr Seitz, 57, joined the US foreign service in 1966 and had two spells at the London embassy before becoming ambassador. He was political officer from 1975 until 1979, closely observing the rise of Margaret Thatcher, and was again briefly posted to London in 1984. In between he

worked in Africa and Canada, and rose to head the State Department's European division.

On his arrival as ambassador, Mr Seitz rapidly established a reputation as an Anglophile, and was seen as an important counterweight on Irish questions to Mr Clinton's Dublin appointee, Jean Kennedy Smith.

Mr Seitz was a generous and legendary host and became a familiar broadcaster and lecturer during his period in Grosvenor Square. His love affair with Britain culminated in a decision to live in the UK after his retirement.

He has certainly prospered financially. He has built up a formidable list of directorships, becoming vice-chairman of the international bankers, Lehman Brothers, in 1996. He is also a director of the public relations firm, Shawwick, the communications giant, Cable & Wireless, British Airways, GEC and the Chubb Corporation.

He is a trustee of the National Gallery and of the Royal Academy. He is a director of Conrad Black's Telegraph Group, which yesterday began serialising his memoirs.

Anne Partida  
Political Correspondent

**D**OWNING Street was attempting to end hostilities between supporters of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor last night, after one senior source was quoted as saying: "Mr Brown is in a very strong political position now, but that may not last forever. No one is indispensable."

The Prime Minister's official spokesman flatly denied reports that Tony Blair had reprimanded Gordon Brown publicly over a newly-pub-

lished biography at last week's Cabinet. And, as the row raged between "friends" on both sides, he said that Mr Blair was "completely dismissive" of a Sunday newspaper report that insiders at No 10 regarded Mr Brown as "psychologically flawed".

There is growing concern about the damage being caused to the Government by the reports of a rift between the two, reignited by the publication last week of a biography of Mr Brown.

Although Mr Brown denies the claim that he authorised the biography, it sympathetically fleshes out the pact between the two men not to

stand against each other for the leadership in a way unflattering to both Mr Blair and his ally, Peter Mandelson. It also makes it clear that Mr Brown has not given up his ambition to be prime minister.

Mr Brown admits he gave the book's author, the political journalist Paul Routledge, interviews, and his two brothers as well as close members of his team. His press spokesman, Charlie Whelan, also helped.

Last night Mr Whelan acknowledged that the way the book had been portrayed was a problem. But the press spokesman added: "Tony and

Gordon are very close friends and everyone knows it. None of these stories are true."

The Chief Whip, Nick Brown, has also come under fire for co-operating with the biography. He is an ally of the Chancellor and would have run his leadership campaign if there had been one. There are suggestions that his loyalty — a critical factor in the whole operation of government — is now being questioned.

There are fears that if the stories of a rift continue, it could undermine the welfare reform project. It is already clear that some Cabinet ministers are suspicious that the

Chancellor's main objective is to make cuts.

A memo from the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, to Mr Brown, leaked to the Guardian last month, which warned the Chancellor over cutting disability benefits gave an indication of the hostility to aspects of change.

Downing Street sources were last night playing down one welfare proposal from the Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, who is one of Mr Brown's closest allies.

Last week she proposed an "affluence test" for some benefits which go automatically even to the wealthiest in society.

Downing Street indicated it was one of many ideas. A spokesman said the Government was still arguing the case for reform.

Sources in the Whips' Office also tried to stop the row. "Being loyal to the Chancellor does not mean you're being disloyal to the Prime Minister," one whip observed. It was also claimed that the basis for the row — the most damaging the government has so far experienced — was not the interviews given by Mr Brown's friends, but their interpretation.

Lander comment, page 8.

### School suspends boys, six, over 'sexual assault' on girl

Week Chaudhary  
Education Correspondent

**T**WO boys aged six have been suspended from school, accused of sexually assaulting a girl in their class.

The alleged incident is reported to have occurred in the lunch break at St Anne's Church of England primary school, Liverpool. The girl, also six, told teachers she was chased by two boys, who allegedly kissed her and touched her private parts.

The mother of one of the boys said yesterday: "The school has blown this com-

pletely out of proportion."

The mother, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said that after speaking to her son "to me it seemed like a game of kiss-chase that had gone too far. I couldn't understand the school's attitude. To confuse adult intentions and a child's game as 'sexual assault' seems ludicrous."

The Rev Myles Davies, chairman of the school's governors, said: "I am aware of the incident, and we will support our headteacher's decision to the full."

An education authority spokesman said: "Normal procedures are being followed."

**The seventies are back. A proliferation of Hollywood blockbusters hark back to the time when Charlie's angels were the women we wanted to be.**

Susannah Frankel

G2 page 4



Got what it takes? ... Hopefuls gather to show off their act for Redcoat auditions at the Hippodrome in London's West End

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODMAN

## Queueing up for fame

Emily Sheffield at auditions to be a Butlin's Redcoat entertainer

**F**OR David Jerome, being a Butlin's Redcoat is a lifetime dream and a family tradition. His parents met in 1971 when both members of the legendary entertainment team. His elder sister, Jenny, was a Redcoat last season, as was her fiancée, now David, aged 18, hopes it is his turn.

He was one of 350 wannabes at the Hippodrome in London's Leicester Square at the weekend to sing, dance or joke their way into the coveted blazer. They came from The candidates were the first chosen from among the 2,000 who applied for 200 places this year at five Butlin's holiday centres and six hotels.

Each had 15 minutes to prove they had what it took to follow in the footsteps of former Redcoats Michael Barry-

more, Des O'Connor and Cliff Richard.

The Redcoats are a central part of a £139 million makeover for Butlin's. Household names since their creation in 1936 by Sir Billy Butlin, the Redcoats are best friend, guide and philosopher to millions of holidaymakers. By 1999 they will be doubled from 150 to 300, their uniforms of red blazers and white flannels brought up to date, and the best of them sent to a Redcoat "Academy of Excellence" to become all-round variety performers.

Alison Goodacre, aged 19, had been up at 5am to travel from Surrey. "I'm stage-crazy, I don't mind what I do as long as I get a job as a Redcoat. I remember them from when I was little, and how friendly they were. If I don't get the

job this year, I'll try next year and the year after."

Paul Beckett, an ex-Redcoat and now a Butlin's entertainment manager, said he sought "professionalism, presentation, energy, patience, and above all, dedication to customer care."

"Being a Redcoat is about having a certain attitude of mind. You have to be a real people's person. It can be one of the most exhausting jobs, but also one of the most rewarding."

Sir Billy Butlin, holiday camp king, first came up with the idea for the Redcoats when he noticed his customers needed more than a cheap holiday and lots of knobly knee competitions — they needed a friend.

So he recruited ten of his best staff, gave them red blazers and white flannel trousers and the Redcoats were born. They have been persuading millions of customers to return ever since.

David Jerome's mother, Lynne, is now a tap dance teacher in Portsmouth. She said it was the pure enjoyment of being a Redcoat that had youngsters queuing up to join. "Little has changed from 20 years ago — all the fun is still there."

"It's a great life, you won't get anyone telling you anything different."

Kevin Taylor, aged 23 and Redcoat of the Year, said the job gave essential training to those who had not been to stage or acting school.

Most Redcoats would stay with them for a few years, and then move on to bigger things.

"I didn't know how to sing or dance when I joined five years ago, now I am turning professional. The academy will be taking that training one step further."

"Also, you are learning while having fun and making friends."

"What is nicer than putting a smile on someone's face?"

## Cold comfort for the witty British

Dan Gilester  
Arts Correspondent

**A**RE YOU proud, civilised, witty, cultured — and cold? Then you are probably British. By contrast, should you feel adventurous, emotional, temperamental, agitated or even relaxed, abandon any notions of applying for a passport; you are almost certainly not British.

A survey by the advertising agency, BMP, of international attitudes to the British makes mixed reading. But if that list of adjectives is unsettling, it could be worse. The last time the survey was undertaken, in 1994, "witty" was not on the list. Instead "arrogant" featured as one of the top five defining characteristics.

The British are also consid-

ered slightly less boring than four years ago. That quality has dropped four places.

The survey, carried out in five continents, is intended solely for anecdotal use. Nevertheless, it contains some lessons: the British, according to one north American respondent, are not good at selling themselves, but they are good at mocking themselves.

"We thought that after the death of Princess Diana and the [election of the] Labour Government it would be interesting to repeat the exercise," said Chris Powell, chief executive of BMP.

"The people with the lowest opinion of the British are the British," said Powell. "This self-deprecating trait may well be one of the hindrances. If it was a company you'd think you had a problem."



Activists in Euro rebel's constituency consider 'benefits' of a protest candidate for 1999 elections

# Welfare cuts Labour open

Seamus Milne  
Labour Editor

**T**HE discontent among Labour Party members about government policies, particularly welfare reform, is highlighted in hundreds of angry replies to a party questionnaire sent out by Ken Coates, the European Parliament member expelled by Labour earlier this month.

More than half the North Nottinghamshire and Chesterfield party members who responded said they thought standing a protest candidate against Labour in the 1999 European elections "might do some good", while 13 per cent said they did not believe such a step should be considered.

The replies, which have been passed to the Guardian, reveal opposition to welfare changes and to plans to abolish existing Euro constituencies and introduce closed party lists — the issue which triggered Mr Coates's breach with Labour. There is overwhelming support for higher taxes on the rich.

The questionnaire returns — which cover nearly 10 per cent of the 4,000-plus North Nottinghamshire and Chesterfield Labour membership — also show that 41 of those who replied are considering leaving the party or have already resigned over the direction of government policy. That snapshot reflects leaks from Labour headquarters of a rise in the numbers of members lapsing recently.

Mr Coates, now an independent Labour member of the United Left group in the Strasbourg parliament, said the responses to his questionnaire reflected the "deep sense of betrayal" among Labour Party members in his area. "The extent to which Mr Blair has scandalised large parts of the traditional Labour vote is not yet recognised."

But Philip Dilks, spokesman for Labour's Central Region, said local Labour opinion had swung against Mr Coates since the questionnaire was sent last month, pointing to a 25-4 vote at the North Notts and Chesterfield Labour Euro constituency organisation nine days ago to endorse his expulsion.

Mr Dilks conceded there was "unrest" in the party, particularly over welfare reform, which was why Mr Blair was taking the message to members around the country. "When you get a high influx of membership, you're never going to keep all these people when you've achieved a Labour government," he added.

Mr Coates has so far received nearly 400 replies to his questionnaire — some in the form of anguished letters — which was sent to all Labour Party members in his European constituency of North Nottinghamshire and Chesterfield.

It includes seven Westminster constituencies: Sherwood, Chesterfield, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, North East Derbyshire, Mansfield and Newark.

Of those who replied, more than 80 per cent backed Mr Coates in his stand against the changes to European candidate selection and voting procedures, 85 per cent wanted higher taxes on the rich and 74 per cent opposed "cuts in welfare spending" — specified as including reductions in lone parent benefit and student support.

On the question of whether a protest candidate should be considered for the European elections next year, 52 per cent said "it might do some good" — though 14 per cent of those said they also needed "more time to think about it".

Even allowing for the likelihood that those who responded were more favourable to Mr Coates's views than the average and the weakness of New Labour influence in such a traditional former mining area, the responses emphasise the problems faced by Mr Blair in trying to sell his welfare reforms to his own party.

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Leader comment page 8



Derek Barlow: despite a triple transplant, he is deemed "too healthy" for disability allowance PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BURNER

**'I can no longer remain a member as a result of the handling of myself and the disabled of this country'**

**D**EREK Barlow, disabled, from Farndon, near Newark, Nottinghamshire, wrote to Tony Blair on December 14. "It is with deep regret that I feel I can no longer remain a member of the Labour Party as a direct result of the handling of myself and the disabled of this country."

"On Thursday of last

week I received three letters, two from the DSS and one from Motability Finance Ltd. The point of these letters was to tell me that I was no longer entitled to Disability Living Allowance.

"The reason given for stopping my benefit is because they said in 1995 I had a successful heart and lung trans-

plant. In fact, I had a heart, lung and liver transplant. It is far from a normal life... due to the side effects of the anti-rejection medication, I now suffer very painful joints, which can severely restrict my mobility. I also can't drive very easily due to the fact I contacted Hepatitis C, thought to be as a result of blood transfusions. Even if fit enough to travel by public transport, due to my suppressed immune system and low white cell count, I am at a high risk of infection from the bugs and viruses that can be fatal to myself. Most of us

would like to get into some sort of work wherever possible, but this cannot be achieved by taking away our benefits first."

Letter from Mr Barlow to Ken Coates, December 29. "It deeply saddened me to have to disassociate myself from the Labour Party as I have for many years believed in its principles, many of which seem to have been abandoned by the present government. It worries me to think this could be the end of the Labour Party as we know it."

**'I am furious and feel completely betrayed'**

**R**UTH McEvoy-Webb, 36, lone parent and mature student, from South Nottingham, Derbyshire, wrote to Ken Coates on December 30.

"I am furious with the Government and their actions and feel completely betrayed by the party I have supported for many years. I returned to education in order that I may one day be able to provide an adequate

standard of living for myself and my son without having to rely on state benefits.

"The grant I receive is wholly inadequate to support us, so as well as being a mother and a full-time student at university, I am also forced to work part-time as well. But even this, according to the Government, is not enough and have further penalised me by cutting my lone parent benefit. "I am completely disillusioned with the Labour Party and I am seriously considering leaving it. This is a situation I never imagined could happen."



Ken Coates: received angry replies to his questionnaire



Ruth McEvoy-Webb: irate over policies on single mothers

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## News in brief

### Pilot arrested over Nadir's bail escape

A PILOT has been arrested and charged with perverting the course of justice in the escape of tycoon Asil Nadir from Britain to northern Cyprus in 1993. Peter Dimond, aged 56, a used car dealer, will appear before Bow Street magistrates in central London today.

He was stopped in a Range Rover on Friday at Fishguard in Wales waiting to board a ferry to Ireland, and taken to London by officials of the Serious Fraud Office. He is believed to have been living in northern Cyprus for the past 4½ years.

When Nadir fled in May 1993, he was on bail of £2 million and facing charges of theft of £30 million and false accounting. He had built up his firm, Polly Peck, to become a major conglomerate but in 1990 it had collapsed with debts of £1.3 billion.

Britain cannot extradite Nadir from northern Cyprus, because there is no extradition treaty with the state, which is recognised only by Turkey. He runs a string of hotels there, but is in trouble over tax payments.

### 'Animal rights' bombs seized

A CAR stopped in Northampton on Saturday contained fire bombs and materials for making bombs, described by police yesterday as a "very significant find related to animal rights activity". Two men in their 30s, one from London and the other from Northampton, are being questioned.

The seizure follows a police operation in Campe Hill, Northampton, and the investigation is continuing. The officer in charge, Detective Chief Superintendent Peter Barclay, said: "This is a very significant find related to animal rights activities. A large team of officers and support staff will be engaged on the inquiry in the coming weeks."

### Boy hanged by pyjama cord

A BOY aged nine found hanging by his dressing gown cord in his bedroom on Saturday night appeared to have died due to an accident, police said yesterday.

They would not say who found the body of Dale Clough, who lived with his parents, brother and two step sisters in Plymouth. A police spokesman said the family were "very distraught" and being cared for by victim support professionals.

The spokesman said an inquest was expected but added: "This is not a suicide. It is not a game, purely a tragic accident. There are no suspicious circumstances, and no evidence the boy was depressed in any way, shape or form." — Geoffrey Gibbs

### Missing children found safe

A WOMAN and her three children were found safe yesterday by Staffordshire police after an urgent appeal was issued on Saturday night when the children were reported missing from their father's home.

Aaron, seven, Nathan, six, and Stacey, three, were found with Mary Sheldon, aged 28, at a house in Stoke-on-Trent. The three had been living with their father, also in Stoke, under a custody order. Police said Mrs Sheldon had taken the children with her after having had an arranged access visit; they were now with child protection officers and she had been detained pending further inquiries.

### Trawler towed out of storm

SIX fishermen on board a Scottish trawler are being towed into port on the Isle of Lewis after being adrift in heavy seas in the North Atlantic for more than 20 hours.

The Audacious 2 lost power when its engine room was flooded in bad weather to the west of Rockall, 200 miles off the Hebrides. A Norwegian boat, the Aarsheim Senior, succeeded in fixing a line to the trawler at the second attempt.

A spokesman for the Clyde coast guard said last night poor weather conditions meant the two vessels could take up to 70 hours to reach port. The trawler's crew all came from Buckie in Aberdeenshire. — Laurence Dongan

### Gardeners coming up roses

MEMBERSHIP of the Royal Horticultural Society is about to top a quarter of a million after a 45 per cent growth over the past five years.

The gardening charity hopes this year to spread its membership outside the Home Counties to Scotland, the North-west of England and East Anglia. It proposes that 2004 be designated the year of the garden, to mark the society's bicentenary.

### Four tickets share £15.8m

FOUR tickets won £3.9 million each in Saturday's lottery. The jackpot of £15.8 million included £4.7 million rolled over from Wednesday. Winning numbers were 14, 31, 33, 38, 46, and 49; bonus ball 36.

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# Brown faces early euro test

Martin Walker in Brussels

**B** RITAIN'S Chancellor, Gordon Brown, flies to Brussels today for his first test as chairman of the European Union finance ministers, to defuse a row about Dutch and German doubts over Italy's ability to meet the debt and budgetary criteria for membership of the European single currency.

Mr Brown had not expected Britain's promise to be an honest broker on the euro's launch to be tested so soon. An equivocal report to be published in Brussels today by the EU's top monetary officials gives fuel to Italy's critics.

The report generally gives Italy high marks for cutting its budget deficit to 2.7 per cent of GDP last year, and an expected 2.8 per cent this year. But the EU's monetary committee notes that Italy's debt, at more than 120 per cent of GDP, is more than double the 60 per cent ceiling set by the Maastricht criteria for euro membership.

Moreover, the monetary committee warns that Italy's plans to cut pensions do not go far enough, because of the "anomaly" which allows some workers to retire and draw pensions from the age of 50. The committee also cau-

tions that recent improvements in Italy's budget position through measures like the imposition of an emergency "euro-tax" cannot be repeated.

Italy last week assured the committee that its new strategy plan would cut public debt to 60 per cent of GDP within 10 to 15 years. But Rome's calculations rest on the assumption that it will be in the first wave of euro membership, and that this in turn

will so lower interest rates that the treasury will save billions of pounds a year in interest payments.

The row erupted last week when senior Dutch politicians leaked their cabinet's

Freedom and Democracy (VVD), a key member of the Dutch coalition government, made no secret of his own opposition to weakening the euro by including the Italian lira.

The reports were seized on in Germany, where Chancellor Helmut Kohl's public campaign for the euro faces hostile opinion polls and a new challenge before the constitutional court.

The Dutch problem is aggravated by a row over the first round of the European central bank. The job was apparently reserved for the Netherlands' central banker, Wim Duisenberg, until the French suddenly put forward

their own central bank candidate, Jean-Claude Trichet. This is another row that will test Mr Brown's six-month chairmanship of the finance ministers committee.

All this takes place against the background of the Asian financial crisis, which will see the euro launched in far more turbulent and risky circumstances than the EU had hoped.

Mr Brown also this week faces his first grilling by the European Parliament's economic and monetary committee, where the campaign by MEPs to win more political influence over the new central bank's monetary policies is gathering force.

## The row centres on Italy's debt which is more than double the Maastricht ceiling

committee that its new strategy plan would cut public debt to 60 per cent of GDP within 10 to 15 years. But Rome's calculations rest on the assumption that it will be in the first wave of euro membership, and that this in turn

doubts about Italy to the German press. Although the Dutch finance minister, Gerrit Zalm, denied he had threatened to resign if Italy made the euro's first wave, Frits Bolkestein, the leader of the liberal People's Party for

Freedom and Democracy (VVD), a key member of the Dutch coalition government, made no secret of his own opposition to weakening the euro by including the Italian lira.

The reports were seized on in Germany, where Chancellor Helmut Kohl's public campaign for the euro faces hostile opinion polls and a new challenge before the constitutional court.

The Dutch problem is aggravated by a row over the first round of the European central bank. The job was apparently reserved for the Netherlands' central banker, Wim Duisenberg, until the French suddenly put forward

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The Pope with Catholic youth activists (above) frees white doves from his flat at the Vatican yesterday, while Fidel Castro (below) contemplates

## Castro calls out the faithful

Phil Gannon in Havana

**D** ESPITE a call by President Fidel Castro for Cubans to give the Pope a warm welcome when he arrives in Havana on Wednesday, there is little sign on the streets of the Cuban capital that the kind of fervour seen on previous papal visits to the world's most Catholic region is about to break out.

There is the odd billboard offering a *bienvenida* to John Paul II and a scattering of posters on private homes, but the true effect of Mr Castro's appeal for a his turnout in this officially atheist country remains to be seen.

Yesterday the Pope asked

pilgrims and tourists at the Vatican to keep his trip in their prayers. "With your prayers, I hope that I can go to Cuba and come back," he joked to the crowd.

In a television address lasting into the early hours of Saturday, Mr Castro assured viewers he would be attending the final mass in Havana next Sunday.

"We should give [the Pope] a great welcome from the moment he lands at the airport," he said, adding that he expected "the whole people, Catholic and non-Catholic, believers and non-believers", to take part.

Until recent weeks, the historic papal visit had received little publicity in the government-controlled media, in a country where to

be a practising Catholic was until recently considered counter-revolutionary, the official change of heart is difficult to absorb.

But it is clear that Mr Castro — who is counting on the Pope to reiterate the Vatican's opposition to the United States trade embargo against Cuba — wants to avoid a repetition of scenes of almost 20 years ago in Nicaragua. Then, a pro-Sandinista crowd chanted slogans during a papal address.

During his television appearance — which purported to be a press conference but was a five-hour monologue — Mr Castro asked those attending this week's open-air masses not to protest at anything the Pope says.



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## Marseillais sing of jobs revolt

Jon Henley in Marseille

**T**HEY are the inheritors of a long tradition, the marchers on the streets of this turbulent Mediterranean city. In Marseille, if you are not happy, you get up and do something about it.

More than 200 years ago, a battalion of Marseillais revolutionaries marched all the way to Paris to help overthrow the monarchy, singing the rousing call to arms that became France's national anthem.

This weekend it was the turn of Jean-Pierre Marcell, a few thousand fellow demonstrators, singing an equally stirring song — "Stay motivated" — that has become the anthem of France's escalating jobless movement.

If unlikely to unseat the left-

wing coalition government, it has at least badly shaken and divided it — to the point where Lionel Jospin, the Socialist prime minister, has pledged to address the nation on television this week.

"There is misery here, real misery, and Paris had better realise it," said Mr Marcell, who is married with three children and lives on government handouts of £270 a month. "Here we'll keep fighting for what we need and deserve — there's nothing else we can do."

Marseille was the birthplace of the now countrywide campaign by France's 3.1 million unemployed for higher benefits and jobs. Mr Marcell was among local protesters who occupied unemployment benefit offices in the city six weeks ago.

The movement shows no sign of abating. On Saturday, its third national day of action, tens of thousands of the unemployed and their supporters staged some of the largest demonstrations yet in about 20 towns.

Some 15,000 took to the streets in Paris, where a small group of protesters succeeded in being served a free meal of oysters and steak at the famous La Coupole restaurant. A customer offered a bottle of champagne.

Five thousand more demonstrated in Toulouse and 3,000 in Montpellier, while large crowds gathered in other towns including Lille, Rouen, Bordeaux and Grenoble.

It is no accident that the movement started in Marseille. The port city, a riotous melting pot, has a proud, radical tradition dating from before the revolution. During the second world war it was a crucible of the resistance.

Since then it has lost much of its heavy industry, leaving one in five of the workforce without a job. Another 125,000 jobs have gone since 1982 with the decline of the port. The unions are strong and well organised, and strikes, like the nearly two-month public transport stoppage in 1996, are often bitter.

Several of the northern boroughs have long been staunchly Communist, in out-

lying towns like La Ciotat, where the first jobless union was formed seven years ago, the local council is invariably either a Socialist or a Communist first. Marseille city hall, however, fell to the right in 1995 for the first time in a quarter-century.

"Here, Paris represents the power and the elite, the soulless technocrats," said Marcell Carrière, the regional organiser of the Communist-led CGT union. "They don't understand us and we don't trust them. Pride, dignity, struggle, rebellion — that's Marseille."

Carrying banners that read "Unemployed is not my profession" and "Together, united, we will overcome", Marseillais jobless protesters marched, sang and danced under bright blue skies this weekend to the regional government building, where they were halted by a double row of barricades and four busloads of riot police.

"I remember a time when there was so much work you'd get called out to the yards in the middle of the night," said Georges Barré, a retired ship repairer.

"Now no one will invest in jobs; they take a 25 per cent profit off the stock exchange instead. But Marseille is a little bit special — here the pride of La Marseillaise will keep us strong."

Several of the northern boroughs have long been staunchly Communist, in out-

## News in brief

### Moderate PM chosen by Bosnian Serbs

THE election of a moderate Bosnian Serb government including Muslim parties won international support yesterday. After months of fighting between rival Bosnian Serb factions, Milorad Dodik, the leader of the Independent Socialist Democrats, was elected prime minister of a government of national unity, calling Mr Dodik a "totally unacceptable" figure. Carlos Westendorp, the international High Representative for Bosnia, hailed the new government as a step forward. — *Karen Coleman, Belgrade.*

### Islamist ban defended

THE Turkish president, Suleyman Demirel, said at the weekend that banning the Islamist party Welfare had been a regrettable legal necessity. "Nobody has the right or privilege to violate the laws of the republic of Turkey," he was quoted as saying. Welfare was banned on Friday. — *Reuters, Ankara.*

### Guyanese rivals agree deal

GUYANA'S president, Janet Jagan, and the main opposition leader, Desmond Hoyte, signed an agreement at the weekend ending an impasse over last month's presidential elections which sparked violent protests in the capital Georgetown. Under the accord, reforms will pave the way for fresh elections within three years and last month's election results will be independently audited. — *Reuters, Georgetown.*

### Offer to Lumumba killers

CONGO'S president, Laurent Kabila, said at the weekend that the killers of Patrice Lumumba, the country's first post-independence prime minister, will be pardoned — but only if they ask for forgiveness. In a speech marking the 50th anniversary of Lumumba's assassination, he said: "Many of the leaders that you have known are behind this famous treason. We know them, we are often side by side with them." — *AP, Kinshasa.*

### Chiapas report damns police

HOURS after 45 Indian refugees were slaughtered in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas last month, the paramilitaries responsible were captured by police but later freed and given their weapons back, a government human rights report says. The report says state officials and police either helped plan the massacre or turned a blind eye. — *Reuters, Mexico City.*



A copper statue, cast 4,300 years ago for Pharaoh Pepi I, goes on display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo for the first time yesterday. The restoration has taken 18 months. It was discovered inside a life-size statue of Pepi I in 1989 at a site 400 miles south of the capital. Work on the bigger statue is due to finish next year. PHOTOGRAPH: ALADIN ABDEL NABY

### Russian miners die in blast

FOUR miners were killed and 23 others feared dead after a powerful explosion 3,000ft below the surface in the Russian Arctic yesterday. A spokesman for the emergency services in the town of Vorkuta said rescue teams were breaking through rubble to save trapped miners. He added that 22 miners had survived the explosion. — *Reuters, Moscow.*

### Thousands flee diamond town

THOUSANDS of people have fled the diamond town of Tongoil in Sierra Leone after it was captured from government forces by Kamajor hunters loyal to the ousted president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, relief agency officials said yesterday. The traditional hunters took the town, a key source of government revenue, on Saturday after a two-week siege. Those fleeing were heading towards Kenema, the eastern capital about 12 miles away, a local co-ordinator with the International Committee of the Red Cross said. — *Reuters, Freetown.*

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مكتبة الصلح



## British minister calls for candour from Algeria

Black in Algeria

ALGERIA is sticking firmly to its position that a European Union mission can only hold talks about "combating terrorism" which do not constitute interference in its internal affairs.

But Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister, insisted yesterday there was "a need for candour" about the recent massacres in the country. "That's not pointing the finger at anybody in the Algerian government for responsibility," he said in a BBC radio interview. "But it would help their case — if we had a very clear statement and a clear understanding of the cause of these events, who's responsible for them."

After another weekend of killings, and a rare report of a military success against Islamist insurgents, Algerian government officials said the meeting with the European

Union delegation which arrives today would be no more than the continuation of a political dialogue between the two sides.

Mr Fatchett and ministers from Luxembourg and Austria are expected to meet the Algerian foreign minister, Ahmed Attaf, to express concern about violence that has claimed more than 1,000 lives since December 30.

British diplomats said last night the talks would be followed by meetings with newspaper editors and opposition party leaders.

The Algerian government, shaken by the scale of the killings, agreed to the EU mission last week. But it is approaching the talks grudgingly, insisting Europe must crack down on Islamist militants abroad and leave it to fight terror as it sees fit.

In the latest violence, 26 people were reported killed in two days, south of Algiers, 18 of them stopped at a road block set up by militants disguised as police.

But army troops were



Mourners in Sida Hammad yesterday bury a victim of the massacre a week ago in which the government says 103 villagers were killed by Islamists. Newspapers said the toll was 400

reported to have destroyed a base of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) in the western province of Relizane, according to a Tribune newspaper. The paper said troops also attacked terrorists in the mountainous Bougara area and found three young women who had been kidnapped from Sida Hammad, south of the capital. All had had their throats cut.

On Saturday the American ambassador, Cameron Hume, visited Sida Hammad to question villagers about the attack by militants last Sunday, in which 103 people were killed and 70 injured, according to the authorities.

But press reports said only a few villagers had been authorised to answer Mr Hume's questions — again raising doubts about the accuracy of official accounts of attacks.

## Saddam vows to launch million-strong militia

Julian Borger Middle East Correspondent

IRAQ declared a holy war on international sanctions yesterday, backed by a million-strong militia, in defiance of attempts, led by the United States, to force it to comply with United Nations weapons inspections.

After the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, issued a call to arms on Saturday night during a television address marking the seventh anniversary of the Gulf war, his vice-president, Taha Yassin Ramadan, announced that a million men and women "volunteers" would be given weapons training starting next month.

"We are determined to carry out a great jihad to lift the sanctions," Mr Ramadan was quoted as saying by the Iraqi News Agency. "There is no alternative to this after seven years of patience and co-operation with the UN and its committees."

He did not say how this force would counter the UN sanctions, imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Western governments insist that the embargo can be lifted only once UN weapons inspectors confirm that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been dismantled.

Earlier this month, Iraq blocked a UN special commission led by a US Gulf war veteran whom it accused of being a spy. Uncomco withdrew the team on Friday, and the chief weapons inspector, Richard Butler, is due for talks in Baghdad today in an attempt to cajole Iraqi compliance and defuse the crisis.

In his anniversary speech, President Saddam said: "The Americans are continuing to harm our people which requires a new method of response". He called for the "mobilisation and training of a key unit of volunteer forces — assembled out of conviction and not through orders".

There is a volunteer force known as "Saddam's commandos" which held a recruitment drive in November during an earlier standoff with the US. It was not clear whether the new militia would be a separate force.

The mobilisation represents a serious escalation in the war of words with Washington and London, which has accompanied a steady build-up of forces in the Gulf. On Friday Britain announced it was sending the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible to the region.

The Defence Secretary, George Robertson, dismissed the Iraqi rhetoric as "bluster". He told the BBC: "I think we are likely to hear a lot of noise but hopefully a diplomatic solution will be found."

The US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, said President Saddam was "tightening the noose around himself" by blocking the Uncomco team which "must have been close to something".

Julian Borger Middle East Correspondent

SEVEN Iraqis were murdered at the start of a dinner party on Saturday night in Jordan's capital Amman in what Jordanian officials described as a mafia-style execution. The dead included a senior embassy official and two wealthy businessmen.

The killings provoked outrage from Baghdad, which sent diplomats and security officials to investigate.

Jordanian officials said the attack could have been the bloody struggle between powerful Iraqis for control of a lucrative trade in breaking sanctions.

The murdered diplomat, Hikmet al-Hajou, was the number two at the Iraqi embassy. Iraqi opposition sources said yesterday that he had been Baghdad's top spy in Jordan.



His wife was also killed, along with five other Iraqis and an Egyptian. They were backed to death with knives after their hands had been bound and their mouths taped. A doctor at the El-Bashir hospital said three victims had had their throats cut.

Hikmet al-Hajou (left) was among seven Iraqis murdered in Amman. The number two at the embassy there, he was also Baghdad's top spy in Jordan, according to Iraqi opposition sources. Iraq has sent diplomats to investigate but Jordanian officials say the attack could be part of a struggle to control the lucrative trade in breaking sanctions.

a rich Iraqi Christian who was among the dead. The Greek woman was his girlfriend.

Also reported murdered were Nemir Awji, part of another powerful Iraqi business family currently building a hotel and shopping complex in the capital, an Iraqi Kurd called Kaka Sadeq and two of George's employees, an Egyptian and an Iraqi.

An activist for the opposition Iraqi National Congress in London said: "Our sense is that this is feeding inside the regime, probably to do with money."

George's business dealings had been linked to powerful figures in the Iraqi regime, in particular Barzan Tikriti, President Saddam Hussein's half-brother and the former intelligence chief, who is currently ambassador to Geneva.

Opposition sources said al-Hajou had formerly been one of Mr Tikriti's senior lieutenants in intelligence.

A Jordanian palace official said several Iraqi suspects arrested after an assassination attempt two weeks ago on another Iraqi diplomat, Rahim Taher, had given evidence pointing to an inter-clan feud over money.

"I think you may be looking at something similar in this case," he said.

An official Iraqi government statement described the killings as a "heinous crime". Relations between Iraq and Jordan soured last month after the execution in Baghdad of four Jordanians suspected of smuggling car parts worth \$300.

But Jordan's prime minister, Abdul Salam al-Majali, rejected suggestions the attack was in revenge. "It has no link with that," he said.

In a separate development, Iraq said yesterday it would release all Jordanian prisoners and halt proceedings against Jordanians in its courts. The Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam ordered the releases after meeting a leading Jordanian opposition figure, Leith Shubellat.

## Iraqis killed in Jordan

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Peter Diamand

# A diplomat at the festival

**T**HERE ARE two kinds of festival director: the enthusiast, usually either a cultured amateur or at least someone principally interested in feeding his own enjoyment of the arts; and the professional, whose approach is more arm's-length, working to a standard and formula that may be his own or may be imposed on him. Peter Diamand, who has died aged 84, belonged to the second category.

Diamand was best known in the UK for having been director of the Edinburgh Festival from 1965 to 1978, in succession to Lord Harewood, who belonged to the opposite description, that of an enthusiast who wanted primarily to please himself. But before Edinburgh, Diamand was general manager of the Holland Festival (1949-1965), where his image could not have been more different to the one he developed in Edinburgh.

Like a barrister who has to appear to change his sympathies in different cases, Diamand was a superb diplomat who could organise his programming to suit the demands of the venue. The Dutch government wanted their arts to be seen as forward-looking and adventurous, and the festival to have the prestige of presenting first performances and attracting the best new talent. Following his brief, Diamand made the Holland Festival an avant-garde event, giving local composers such as Peter Schat the facilities to mount large-scale dadaistic operas like *Labyrinth* (not however performed until after he left in 1966) that brought in young audiences and international critics.

During the festival Amsterdam's artistic night-haunts buzzed all night with excited comment and argument. And taking part were many of the international big composers of the moment: Luciano Berio, Bruno Maderna, Luigi Nono and Mauricio Kagel, not to mention Boulez, his French disciples and such figures from Britain as Cornelius Cardew and the Manchester school composers. Although the occasional Mozart and Verdi opera was given in the festival, as well as period music from the excellent Dutch chamber groups, the emphasis was on the modern, in music, dance and performance art.

During his years in Amsterdam, Diamand's name was synonymous with experiment because that was his brief. When he went to Edinburgh, he gave his audiences, for the most part, excellence based on the traditional and familiar, and programming aimed to please audiences.

The Edinburgh Festival committee consists of some members of the cultural es-



Diamand... at ease with both the experimental and the traditional

establishment and a majority of city councillors, not many of whom have much knowledge of, or particular interest in, the arts. They help to fund the festival, which brings much money to local hotels, shopkeepers and even public services, but they prefer the programming to be safe and conventional. Harewood changed that for a while, his prestige as the Queen's first cousin sufficiently outweighing the council for him to get his own way without interference. But the royal magic made the mistake of being too democratic as well as controversial. This made it easier to attack his policies and he left with no attempt made to retain him after only four years in the job.

Diamand brought all his diplomatic skills to the festival, keeping his remoteness, wary of the press and building a nucleus of international artists willing to come back annually for a pitance of what they earned elsewhere. Throughout the year he kept in touch with his singers, conductors and best-known soloists, so that he moved in their circles and retained their confidence.

In Edinburgh he put on prestigious performances of repertoire works, often in collaboration with companies recording the works, so that popular operas like *Carmen*, with Teresa Berganza and other big stars, could be seen at the festival at a partially subsidised cost before becom-

ing available on disc. Yet although the bulk of his programming was conventional, and always performed by the best available executants, there still remained something for the collectors of new or unusual works. These were simply buried in the complete hill of fare in a way that would invite as little adverse comment as possible.

**D**IAMAND never attempted to give a major emphasis to a composer such as Schönberg or Janáček, as Harewood had. But he brought Harnoncourt to conduct a series of Monteverdi operas, introduced a concert performance of Nono's *Intolleranza* (the only time it has been heard in Britain) and cunningly staged two performances of Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten*, a major but controversial Wozzeck-like opera. In 1972, eight years after its German premiere and two after the composer's suicide.

This work, deeply pacifist in its inspiration and featuring scenes of carnality and violence such as has always awakened the puritanical wrath of the Edinburgh bourgeoisie in the past, was given, with no advance notice of its content, on a Saturday night — too late to get any coverage in the Sunday tabloids, who were always on the look-out for a scandal — and again on the following Monday, when it was too late for the popular dailies to realise that they had

missed a target. The national broadsheets covered it decorously and the main thrust of the festival as far as the public was concerned was given that year to the operas of Bellini, Verdi and Beethoven safe and popular fare, along with the usual celebrity concerts.

Diamand took little interest in the drama side of the festival and delegated all non-musical activities to his deputy. When he left, the festival again changed its character under the more colourful and flamboyant direction of John Drummond, whose career there was rather like Harewood's. No one in Edinburgh seemed to realise that Diamand had another full-time job, which he cannily did not mention in his Who's Who entry: he was also manager and advisor to the Orchestre de Paris, which explained why he was sometimes not available during the year at the festival's London office.

He also had other consultancies, many acquired through his attendance at meetings of the Association of European Music Festivals, which were undoubtedly more useful to him than to Edinburgh. He was very affable when, after 14 years, his contract was not renewed, but continued to pursue his other activities.

Diamand was born in Berlin and educated at the Schiller-Realgymnasium and Berlin University, where he studied law and journalism. He left Germany in 1933 because of the Nazis (he was Jewish) and became private secretary to Arthur Schnabel, the distinguished pianist, and in 1946, assistant to the director of the Netherlands Opera. He remained his artistic adviser until 1965, in addition to his position with the Holland Festival.

Among his honours was the CBE in 1972, an honorary doctorate (LLD) from Edinburgh University and many awards and medals from Holland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Italy and France. Outwardly austere, he was generally well-liked and had the enthusiasm for his knowledge and taste hinted was always just below the surface.

He was married twice, first to the pianist Maria Curcio in 1948 (the marriage was dissolved in 1971) and then to Sylvia Rosenberg, the American violinist. He is survived by one son.

**John Calder**  
Peter Diamand, impresario and festival organiser, born 1913; died January 16, 1998



Haunting image... Robert Mitchum and Shelley Winters in *Night of The Hunter*, shot by Cortez

Stanley Cortez

## Painter with a movie camera

**C**HARLES Laughton's only film as director was an eerily beautiful parable of good and evil, *Night of The Hunter* (1955), much of the quality of which is due to the atmospheric cinematography by Stanley Cortez, who has died aged 84.

The stylisation derived from German Expressionism and American Primitive paintings, and the use of irises and other silent film techniques, also echoes D W Griffith's rural dramas. Robert Mitchum as the psychopathic preacher-murderer pursuing two children through a nocturnal landscape, Lillian Gish guarding a brood of orphans like a mother hen and the murdered Shelley Winters's hair streaming out under water are some of cinema's most haunting images.

"Every day I consider something new about light, that incredible thing that can't be described," Cortez said. "Of the directors I've worked with, only two have understood this: Charles Laughton and Orson Welles."

Yet although Cortez did a wonderful job on *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), Welles found him "a criminally slow cameraman". Welles' bad temper, the fast-working Gregg Toland on *Citizen Kane* and his irritation by the lengthy time Cortez took to light a scene, and the way he talked about photography in painterly terms. But the shimmering dark look he got for the dinner party scene, the purity

of light during the sleighride (achieved by arc lights on the snow suggesting the glare of the sun) and the way in which the camera tracks in long, unbroken shots through the abandoned mansion gained Welles's unconditional approval.

Cortez was born Stanislaus Krantz in New York's Lower East Side, the son of an Austrian Jewish immigrant. As a child, he wanted to be a conductor but as a teenager got a job at Edward Steichen's photographic studio. He decided to enter films when watching his older brother Ricardo Cortez (born Jacob Krantz), whose Latin lover looks made him change his name, being directed by D W Griffith in *The Sorrows of Satan* (1926).

In Hollywood, Cortez became assistant cameraman on Cecil B DeMille movies at Paramount, before becoming one of the youngest first cameramen in the world at 25, assisting Karl Struss, George Barnes and Charles Rosher. Before *Ambersons*, Cortez had worked on mostly B-thrillers, but Welles had been impressed by the cinematography of them, especially *The Black Cat* (1931), with Basil Rathbone and Bela Lugosi at Universal.

It was while filming *Since You Went Away* (1944), the weepiest, longest and biggest hit about the second world war home front, that Cortez entered the Army Signal Corps. Cortez and Lee Garmes, who finished the picture, were Oscar-nominated for the best black and white cinematography. On his return from active service,

during which he photographed the Yalta and Quebec conferences for the newsmen, he returned to Universal, where he shot *Smash-Up* (1947), featuring Susan Hayward in her first starring role. Cortez not only created effects that made audiences see the world through the eyes of a drunk but made Hayward look ravishing. Hayward repeatedly asked Cortez to photograph her in future films.

Surprisingly for someone of his scaled reputation, Cortez worked rarely with the best directors. Although he shot Fritz Lang's *The Secret Beyond The Door* (1948) and two films for Sam Fuller — *Shock Corridor* (1963) and *The Naked Kiss* (1964) — he found himself photographing B-movies such as *Navy vs The Night Monsters* and *The Ghost in The Invisible Bitch* (both 1966) at the latter end of his career.

His last prestigious film was *The Bridge At Remagen* (1969), of which he remarked: "I changed nature by making everything that was fresh and bright look almost monochromatic with bleak greys, browns and umbers. It was a war picture, so I dulled the greens of summer to keep the mood grim, warlike." It is this ability to paint with the camera that characterises the best cinematographers, among whom Stanley Cortez stands high.

**Ronald Bergan**  
Stanley Cortez, cinematographer, born November 4, 1908; died December 23, 1997

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## 1998 Observer sports calendar

The World Cup, Commonwealth Games, Winter Olympics and all the major domestic and international fixtures. Don't miss a minute of the action; get the poster-sized Observer Sports Calendar. Please fill in the form below and send it to: Helen Reed, The Observer Sports Calendar, 164 Deansgate, Manchester, M60 2RR, UK, enclosing a cheque or money order for £2.50 made payable to Guardian Newspapers Ltd or fill in your Visa/Mastercard details.

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### Holy water

**S**HORTLY after dawn, Veer Bhadrar, a Hindu priest, in traditional Indian dhoti, or loin cloth, walks slowly and stiffly down a long steep stairway from his temple in the city of Varanasi to the banks of the Ganges, as he has done almost every day of his fifty-eight years.

Varanasi is one of the oldest continuously occupied cities in the world, contemporary with the dynasties of ancient Egypt or Mesopotamia. But while no one sacrifices to the Egyptian sun god Ra or to Baal anymore, some sixty thousand devotees take the holy dip each day in Varanasi, lighting fires along the shores of the Ganges to Lord Shiva, the god who is believed to have caught the river on the tangled locks of his hair as it descended to Earth from Heaven.

"Please consider them an endangered species these people who still have this faith, this living relationship with the river," Mishra says with passion. "If birds can be saved, let this species of people be saved by granting them holy water."

Mishra, as the mahant of Santax Mochan Temple, is himself the living link to one of Varanasi's most cherished legacies. He is spiritual heir to a greatly revered Hindu saint, Tulsi Das, who in the 16th century wrote a famous Hindi version of Ramayana, one of the most important texts of Hinduism.

*The New Yorker* bathes in holy water.

### Robo lingo

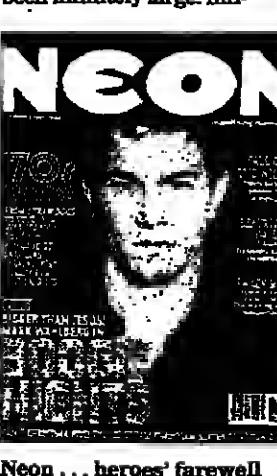
**R**EMEMBER the last time you were on holiday abroad? In particular, those embarrassing moments in a Spanish tapas bar, or a Parisian bistro, when you searched your memory bank in vain for a few crucial words of O-level French or Spanish to give to waiter or waitress?

Now imagine a future free of such humiliation. This time you no longer need to fumble with a dictionary; instead you have a hi-tech helper — in the shape of a tiny device just under the skin at the back of your head. This "brainlink" connects you to a computer which "tells" your brain how to communicate in French or Spanish, guaranteeing you will never again accidentally order a plate of horse-meat when all you fancied was a nice green salad.

*From focus magazine.*

### The big crunch

**O**UR SUN will shine steadily for five billion more years before swelling and vaporising our planet. The universe, however, will probably last for another hundred billion. It is expected to collapse eventually, but might first dilate by a factor of one followed by a million zeros. Its expansion is possible even if it has always been infinitely large. Inf-



Neon... heroes' farewell

nately many galaxies, scattering across infinite space, could keep getting further apart. Infinity being a large number, some of the galaxies could well contain exact duplicates of you and me. With sufficiently many typing monkeys, even Hamlet would get typed many times.

Given enough time, strange things could happen. An electron could find its motions controlled by an equally insignificant positron tugging at it ever so weakly from ten billion light years away. After a billion years separate us from a time when everything will start collapsing towards a Big Crunch.

*Infinity and beyond, in London Review of Books.*

### B&B RIP

**T**RAGICALLY, Beavis and Butt-head have died. Their last work was aired on MTV on December 20, showing them failing to turn up at Highland High School and later being discovered dead. Though their career spanned only four years, they managed to revitalise the career of Glenn Danzig and boosted the flagging American microwave nacho industry. The pair will be buried under the headstone: "Beavis and Butt-head RIP. Hurbur, you said pee." They will be missed.

*Neon pays tribute to Beavis & Butt-head.*

*Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.*

**Hannah Pool**

### Dorothy Jeffree

#### Pioneer enabler

**D**OROTHY Jeffree, who has died aged 84, was a pioneer in supporting parents who wanted to help their disabled children to learn and to develop.

Working at the Hester Adrian Research Centre at Manchester University in the early 1970s, she helped to develop workshops for parents of young children with learning disabilities (then called mental handicap), in which parents learned to assess and teach their own children, with the backing of other parents and unobtrusive support from professionals.

The assumption that assessment and teaching could, quite properly, be the domain of parents was relatively new and controversial at that time. Today it is accepted and used throughout the world.

During the 1970s, Jeffree led several research projects developing approaches to parents working productively with their own children. Arising from this work, she launched, with colleagues, a highly successful and influential series of books known as the "Let Me" series: *Let Me Speak*, *Let Me Play*, *Let Me Read*, *Let Me Count*, *Let Me Make Toys*, as well as *Let's Join In* and an introductory

**Peter Mittler**  
Dorothy Maud Jeffree, educationalist, born June 17, 1913; died December 23, 1997

#### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

**I**N AN article headed "Alarm at killer traffic fumes", Page 2, January 14, the name of the chief executive of the National Asthma Campaign was given as Malinda Betts. Her surname is Letts.

**I**N A PANEL, Page 3, G2, January 14, we gave the age of

#### Birthdays

Desi Arnaz Jr, actor, 45; Peter Atkinson, Conservative MP, 55; Julian Barnes, writer, 52; Nina Bawden, novelist, 73; John Bercow, Conservative MP, 35; Tom Cox, Labour MP, 68; Michael Crawford, actor and singer, 56; Bernard Donnan, painter, 73; Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 32; Phil Everly, rock singer, 59; Jacky Fleming, cartoonist, 43; Wayne Hemingway, fashion designer, 37; Patricia Hodgson, director, policy and planning, 55; Hans Hotter, bass baritone, 69; Richard Lester, film director, 68; Brig Helen Mechie, former director, WRAC, 60; Nigel Nicolson, author and former MP, 91; Robert Palmer, rock singer and guitarist, 49; Dolly Parton, country music singer and actress, 52; Javier Perez de Cuellar, former United Nations secretary-general, 78; Sir Simon Rattle, conductor, 43; Mike Reid, actor and comedian, 58; Malcolm Reilly, rugby league coach, 50; Sir John Stanley, Conservative MP, 56; Jean Stapleton, actress, 75; Steve Staunton, footballer, 29; Gary Streeter, Conservative MP, 43; Dennis Taylor, snooker player, 49; David Tredinnick, Conservative MP, 48; Margaret Wingfield, former president, National Council of Women, 86.

**and 5pm, Monday in Friday.**  
Fax: 0171 239 9007. E-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk

#### Births

**B**ROWNSTEAD, James, 2 brother for Gloucester and Bristol. Thanks to all the excellent and expert care.

**TO place your announcement in the Guardian and Sun, Monday in Friday.**  
0171 713 4444 or fax 0171 713 4120 between 9am and 5pm, Monday-Friday

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Monday January 19 1998

## Tomorrow: Black business out of the shadows

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# FinanceGuardian

11

## Residents block line

### Prescott faces rail inquiry

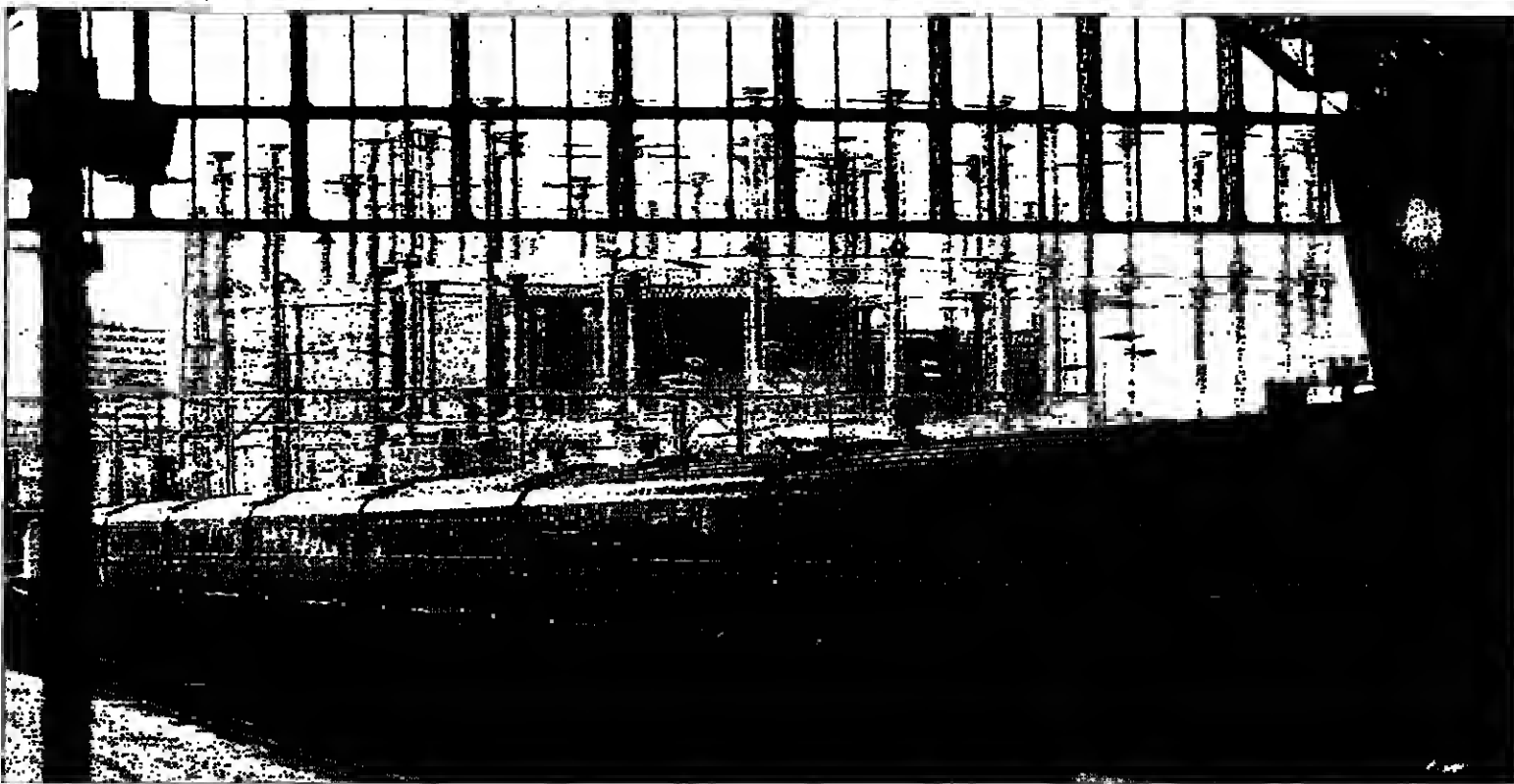
Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

THE deputy prime minister, John Prescott, has been summoned to give evidence in a judicial review of the £2.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link, called because local people affected by the development are worried they will not receive adequate compensation.

The case is expected to be heard in the High Court later this month. A resident, Julian Burcher, has been given leave to seek a review on the grounds that residents in St Pancras, London, where the link will finish, could be left without fair compensation for the demolition of their homes.

The London borough of Camden, in which the project is due to be built, has also been asked to appear. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said last night that the case was "very complicated".

Mr Burcher hopes to prove that the scheme should not go ahead until compensation is agreed with residents. Many of them have been ordered to quit their homes by April 6 so that London and Continental Railway, the company building the link, can start preliminary



A working gasometer behind St Pancras Station which is set to be demolished when the Channel Tunnel link is built

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

works, but they are concerned that the future of the project is still uncertain. LCR is looking for other partners, among them Railtrack, to assist it in a successful flotation on the Stock Exchange by the middle of the year.

City investors have been cautious about the project, partly because of the impact of the Channel Tunnel fire in

November 1996 and the returns for the company on its Eurostar services. Passenger numbers have not been as high as investors had hoped.

Sarah Newton, a member of the local residents' association, said: "There should be better arrangements in place for rehoming us."

A key issue to be decided is whether LCR and the Govern-

ment are contravening a development agreement signed when the company was awarded the contract to build the 68-mile fast rail route between St Pancras and Folkestone.

Under the terms of the agreement, until flotation the project can proceed only as far as the design and tendering stages. It says that demol-

ition cannot start until LCR has satisfied Mr Prescott that it has sufficient funds to complete the project. Railtrack has been having informal talks with LCR in a move to rescue the cash-strapped operation.

When the line opens for business, it will halve Eurostar journey times between London and the Channel Tun-

nel. St Pancras station will be extended to accommodate the Eurostar trains, and there will be new stations at Stratford and Ebbsfleet, near the M25.

Once operational, in 2003, a journey from London to Paris will take 2 hours 20 minutes, a saving of 35 minutes on the current journey from Waterloo to the Gare de Nord.

## Economics notebook

### Zap Paula Jones, Gates is the one



Victor Keegan

PRESIDENT Clinton versus Paula Jones has caught the world's attention, but a case of potentially greater moment is Microsoft versus the US Department of Justice. Microsoft is an extraordinary company. Bill Gates, its founder, has found the 20th-century equivalent of the philosopher's stone that turned base metals into gold.

He rearranges the ones and zeros of computer code to produce word-processing packages, operating systems, spreadsheets and the like. In fewer than 20 years he has driven his company to sales of more than \$12 billion (£7.3 billion) a year, earning himself a personal fortune of \$40 billion.

Microsoft is unlike any other company. First, the scale of its monopoly. Its operating system, Windows, resides in 87 per cent of the world's personal computers and its Word and Excel software have a similar global grip. Small wonder the company is suffering from corporate hubris. Bill Gates came to believe that what was good for Microsoft was good for America. When the Department of Justice cried foul, he treated it with disdain, as if it had no right to question what Microsoft was doing.

What Bill Gates was putting into his operating system was a "browser" enabling PC users to navigate their way around the Internet. Since he was giving it away free — or, rather, financing it from the profits of his operating system — how could anyone suggest he was acting unfairly?

Microsoft argues that a browser is now an integral part of the operating system and the lay people at the Justice Department have no right to make Microsoft's technical decisions for it.

Irrespective of the merits of the current case — whether or not Microsoft is in contempt of a Department of Justice ruling to unblock its browser — there is a huge unanswered question about what to do about the company's global monopoly.

Why is Microsoft able to give its browser away free? Could it be because it makes an amazing 40 per cent profit on its software? This is a prima facie case of monopoly profits being used to subsidise new products and keep out the competition.

Remember — as the management guru Peter Drucker reminds us — that the computer industry as a whole loses money. Yet, within those sectoral losses, Microsoft manages to make a mouth-watering return of 40 per cent on sales. How can anyone in future devise a rival browser or spreadsheet when Microsoft could drop its prices

while still earning a bundle from its monopoly-controlled operating system?

Imagine the outcry if a single company owned 85 per cent of the world's power supplies and configured the system so that it easily took its own, free lightbulbs but not those of its rivals.

Microsoft argues that it runs an "open" standard so that anyone can make products to run on its operating system, and that its own monopoly is not permanent but open to attack from innovators like "net computers".

It is good to have a common standard so there are not dozens of competing operating systems which fail to run each other's products. But if one accepts this "common carrier" function of Microsoft, it should be separated from its other functions, such as making software to run on it. It should not be allowed to make profits which arise from a monopoly position, rather than from innovation. How is it that other computer manufacturers have to cut their prices every few months because of fierce competition while Microsoft carries on earning a mint from its operating system?

THIS raises the second crucial point. Microsoft is the world's first digital monopoly, and economic theory has yet to catch up with it. If, say, a car manufacturer had an 85 per cent share of the world market, then in order to get there it would have had to build new plants and hire more people. Not so with digital companies. Once one copy of, say, a browser has been made, the rest of the production line costs either very little or nothing at all. It is delivered through a CD-ROM — or nothing at all if delivered straight into a computer from the Internet. For the first time in history, it is possible to expand output almost infinitely at no extra cost.

Such a monopoly could prove, extremely difficult, to dislodge. Even if you had a bright idea for a new spreadsheet, you could spend millions developing it and then be faced with the prospect of Microsoft bundling its own in free with its operating system. Microsoft has invented very few of its products but has been brilliant at marketing improved versions of others' inventions.

The solution is to bolster competition by splitting Microsoft into a manufacturer of operating systems and a separate software side. Both would prosper and be immune from the cancer of monopolism. Microsoft's argument that innovations such as browsers are integral to the operating system is a ploy. They could be made to be so — but they could equally be sold as stand-alone products.

The US government has some crucial decisions to take. First, who is to control the arteries of the information age? Second, whether Microsoft is already so powerful it can shrug off government interference and lift two digits at Washington. Microsoft is beginning to realise it has bitten off more than it can chew. But the battle has only just started.

vic.keegan@guardian.co.uk

# News group turns to health

## Bar code system could attract bid

Ian King

REUTERS, the international news agency and information group, is understood to have made a takeover approach to Practice Resource Systems, the fast-growing privately owned information technology group.

Reuters, which has plenty of financial firepower despite last month's announcement of a £1.5 billion cash hand-out to investors, wants to buy PRS because of a unique health care system that the Wilshire-based group, which is backed by venture capitalists Apax, has devised.

The system, called Health-Plus, is the first of its kind to

link doctors' surgeries to local pharmacies and has attracted interest from the Department of Health as part of its planned crackdown on prescription fraud.

In particular, Reuters is understood to be interested in the system's encryption. It has been designed to protect the confidentiality of patients and could be applied easily to other businesses and markets where Reuters is active.

The news comes as the National Health Service has agreed to spend up to £150 million on connecting all GP surgeries to the NHSnet, a computer network for NHS hospitals, by 1999.

Doctors have been pressing for the computerisation of GP's surgeries to be government-funded for several years

and PRS — by virtue of the systems it has already developed — is expected to be a prime beneficiary of the investment, which was announced recently by Alan Milburn, the health minister.

Under the PRS's HealthPlus system, patients register with a chemist of their choice, enabling them to collect prescriptions and seek advice from the pharmacy using a bar-coded registration card.

Apart from removing the need for patients — particu-

larly the elderly and infirm — to make visits to the doctor, the scheme has been welcomed by pharmacists, who are able to spend more time on discussing patients' needs rather than simply on the preparation of prescriptions.

Reuters already has an interest in the health care IT market through its Vamp business. This provides products to medical practitioners and already has a distribution deal with PRS. But the work only accounts for a tiny proportion of turnover and an acquisition of PRS would take the group's involvement in the potentially lucrative sector to a new level.

A Reuters spokesman refused to comment last night on suggestions that a deal might be imminent.

Reuters was linked last year to a possible tilt at Dow

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## Roche calls for cheaper phone costs within Europe

Simon Beavis  
Media Business Editor

TECHNOLOGY minister Barbara Roche will today call for phone call costs across Europe to match ones within the UK.

The minister, who is chairing the European Union's Telecoms Council during Britain's six-month EU presidency, is to speak at a conference to mark the start of the single telecoms market, which came into force on January 1.

She will also tell the Brussels audience that Europe could price itself out of the information age unless it lowers charges. Mrs Roche believes that unless cost of access to net-

works is reduced, many providers of innovative information services will be put off investing in new products.

"Europe needs to aim for the cheapest and best telecoms networks in the world if we are to make our mark in the information age," she will warn.

Her comments come amid concern that the high cost of calls and of Internet access has held back its development in Europe. In the UK calls are cheap and providers have introduced flat-rate pricing.

"If it costs too much for providers of new services to obtain capacity and if operators make their networks difficult to use, those new services and applications which we expect to appear in the next millennium may not be available in Europe," she will say.

Mrs Roche wants the Government to use its EU presidency to promote the idea of affordable telecommunications.

## Foreigners snap up UK firms

MORE UK companies are being taken over by foreign buyers than in any country apart from the US, according to a survey out today.

Buying a company in the UK is seen by many overseas groups as a stepping stone into the European market, despite the country's decision not to join the European Monetary Union in the first phase. Foreign companies spent £33.15 billion (£20.3 billion) last year on UK companies, an increase of over a third on the previous year. And the KPMG Corporate Finance survey showed the UK is swiftly replacing the US as the takeover country of choice. Takeovers by outsiders of US firms dropped 18 per cent last year.

Stephen Barrett, head of mergers and acquisitions at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "All the talk about Britain opting out of the single currency has done nothing to deter international companies. They are flocking to the UK like never before and spending record sums on buying British businesses."

New research by the AA shows that modern car security can be the bane of cat-owners' lives. Lost keys and confusion caused by sophisticated security devices were the second highest reason for AA call-outs last year — more even than flat tyres.

But battery problems are still the car-killer, account-

## Supermarkets are safe from predators, say researchers

Roger Cowe

THE idea of takeovers or mergers between top supermarket operators is discounted in a review of the industry published today by retail experts Verdict.

The company dismisses recent rumours of a predator stalking Sainsbury and suggests that Asda and Safeway are to renew last year's talks on a merger.

It says a merger between numbers three and four in the supermarket business would

not work. "The two businesses target opposite ends of the mass market and are culturally far apart. Verdict believes that many Sainsbury customers would be lost if the Asda format were adopted, and vice versa," the report says.

It argues that the most likely takeovers are at the other end of the market, where both Sainsbury and the Co-op could build on their convenience-store formats through acquisition.

Despite its scepticism about merger, Verdict sees Safeway

continuing to struggle in the wake of Sainsbury's recovery. Tesco continued to stretch its lead over Sainsbury last year, taking nearly 17 per cent of the grocery market to Sainsbury's 16 per cent. Even Asda overtook Safeway, with a share of nearly 9 per cent, to a little more than 8 per cent for Safeway.

The report says: "Sainsbury's has re-established much of its trading reputation, helped by a revitalised marketing function. Safeway lives in the shadow of Sainsbury and is not sufficiently

clearly differentiated from its larger rival."

Verdict says that the fashion for home delivery is unlikely to have a significant impact for at least five years, because it is too slow and cumbersome, and few customers will want to pay for delivery or stay in waiting for one.

But when this form of selling does take off, consumers will only begin to shop for their dry grocery purchases and then buy their fresh produce from local greengrocers and butchers.

## Allied aims for global alliance

Julia Finch

DRINKS giant Allied Domecq hopes to form a new global spirits alliance to rival the firepower of the newly merged Guinness/GrandMet Diageo within six months.

The self-imposed deadline emerged yesterday after speculation that Allied Domecq chief executive Tony Hedges had held recent talks with Edgar Bronfman Jr, president of Canadian drinks and entertainment group Seagram.

Allied, which is under pressure from investors to make a bold move, has been linked with a number of potential merger partners, including Seagram, ever since the creation of Diageo was revealed last spring.

Yesterday a spokesman for Allied Domecq refused to comment on the renewed speculation about a Seagram link. But a source close to the company confirmed the recent talks.

"They are still in the very early stages of discussions," he said. "There is no announcement imminent and Allied are still talking to other companies such as Bacardi and Pernod-Fleury." "It is no secret that Allied are looking for an alliance. Ever since the formation of Diageo was announced last May, every company in the drinks business worldwide has been talking to one another. Diageo has rewritten the rules."

## Security is bane of drivers' lives

Locks are so good even the owners cannot get in, says STEVE BUSFIELD

CAR security systems might make life more difficult for joyriders, but they certainly do not make it any easier for the vehicles' owners.

New research by the AA shows that modern car security can be the bane of cat-owners' lives. Lost keys and confusion caused by sophisticated security devices were the second highest reason for AA call-outs last year — more even than flat tyres.

But battery problems are still the car-killer, account-

ing for one fifth of all the calls to the organisation.

Last year 325,424 out of 4.5 million reported problems were due to battery trouble. A further 269,070 call-outs were made to the AA because of keys — or the lack of them.

Alistair Cheyne, director of AA Operations, said: "Statistics such as these show that you are four times more likely to lose the car keys at a supermarket car park, than some problems are often due to the pace of modern life

rather than negligence." He added, however: "The greater sophistication of security devices, although successful in cutting down car-crime, has managed to bamboozle many drivers."

The AA has identified the problem of radio transmission signals jamming out signals from remote-controlled key fobs as being one of the biggest nightmares for vehicle owners. An independent radio-activated key entry committee has even been established by motorists' and trade organisations to tackle what the sector sees as a growing problem.

But Mr Cheyne emphasised that battery problems

remained the biggest issue. He said: "The monstrous figure for faulty batteries is a real concern. It comes down when drivers start to appreciate the cumulative strain on them."

"Pinging in mobile phones, in-car entertainment and other gizmos and then getting stuck in road congestion day in, day out — without finding unhelpful drive-time to recharge — is a recipe for an electrical coronary." "Barclays is to open what it claims will be the first British 'drive-through' cash dispenser for motorists in the spring at Hatton Cross, near Heathrow Airport's Terminal One.

## Tiny's trade flags up figures from mine-realigned Lonrho

This week

Ian King

IT WAS no coincidence that "Tiny" Rowland last week launched a tirade against Lonrho, the company he founded, since it publishes its full-year results on Thursday.

The figures put out by Lonrho, which is repositioning itself as a mining-only group, will not be easy to digest because of one-off disposals. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of about £111 million.

Of greater interest will be what chief executive Nick Norrish has to say about the merger with JCI, South Africa's first black-controlled mining firm.

The City, which is hoping for more news on Lonrho's hotel chain, Princess, after negotiations over the sale of the bus-

ness to Saudi Prince al-Waleed recently broke down.

TODAY — Interims: Adscene, Ashted, Mitie, Finalis: Cardiff Property, AGMs: Abacus Polar, Barlow, Cosalt, Dominion Energy, EGMs: Reuters, Trading statements: Diageo, Storehouse, Style.

TOMORROW — Interims: Barbour Index, Bucknall, Finalis: Ushers, AGMs: Abstrut High Income, Alvis, Concentric. Trading statement: Body Shop, Alders.

WEDNESDAY — Ints: SFL, Finalis: Lorient, Ultraframe, Watson & Philip, AGMs: Cento, Lloyds, Wyndy.

THURSDAY — Interims: McKay, John Menzies, William Ransome, Finalis: First Leisure, Lonrho, AGMs: Airways, Burton, MEFC, MY, EGMs: Burlington Group, Sibir Energy.

FRIDAY — Interims: WF Electrical, AGMs: Denby, EGMs: LucasVarity.

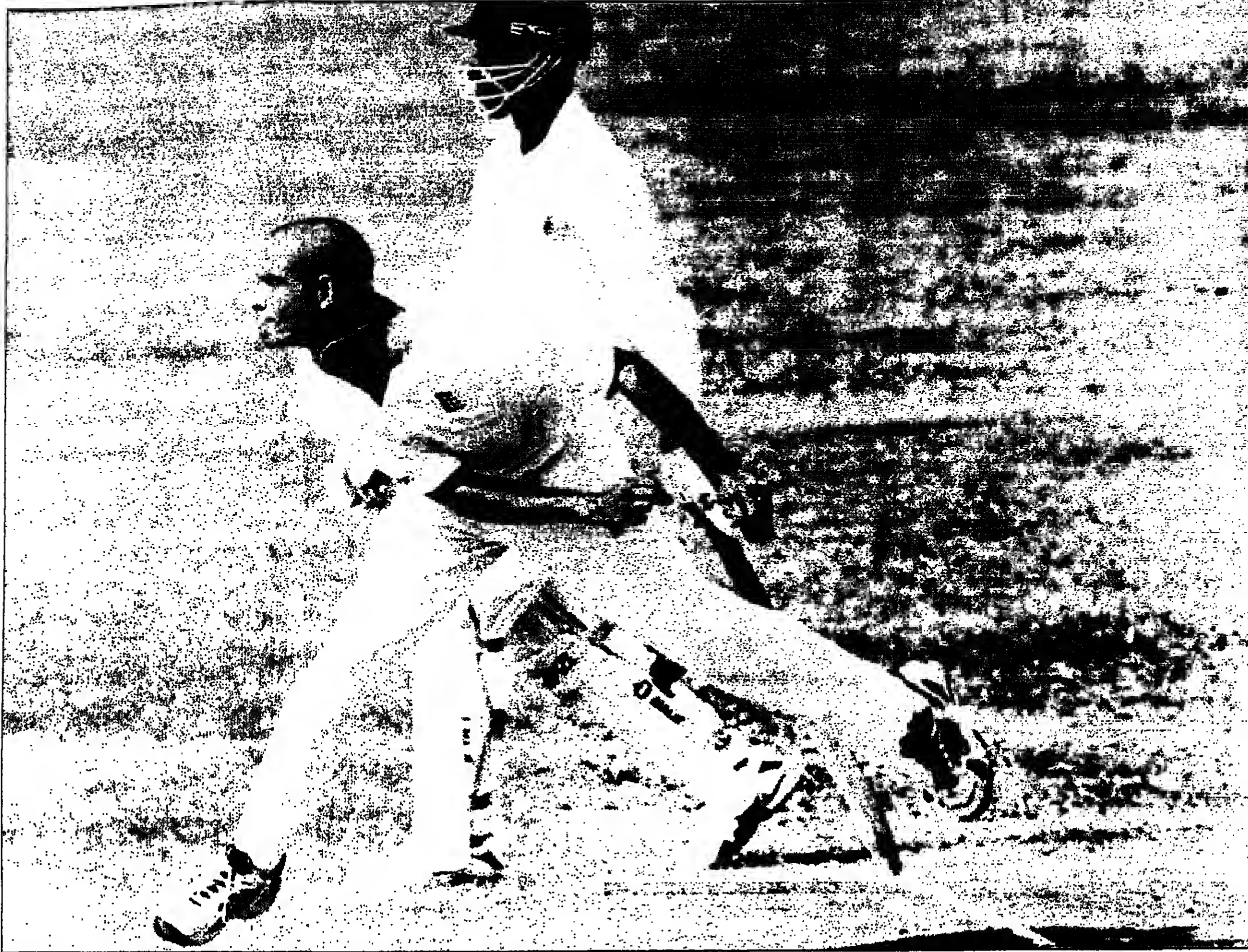
## TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.421	France 9.709	Italy 2.880	Singapore 2.81
Austria 20.43	Germany 2.903	Malta 0.532	South Africa 7.91
Belgium 59.52	Greece 480.05	Netherlands 3.26	Spain 244.25
Canada 2.281	Hong Kong 12.27	New Zealand 2.72	Sweden 12.82
Cyprus 0.582	India 65.62	Norway 12.00	Switzerland 2.73
Denmark 11.13	Ireland 1.158	Portugal 255.53	Turkey 324.580
Finland 5.577	Israel 5.85	Saudi Arabia 4.02	USA 1.595

Supplied by WestWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



## Atherton condemns 'dangerous' pitch



Fast and furious... Dean Headley, who took nine wickets in the match, fires down another bullet against Jamaica at Jarrett Park where England won by an innings and 65 runs in the first match of their tour

PHOTOGRAPH: REBECCA NADEN

Tour match: Jamaica v England XI

## England dig deep for victory

Mike Selvey sees the tourists come through triumphant and unscathed despite a baptism of fire at Montego Bay

FOR the England team, this match at Jarrett Park has been not so much a gentle entry into the Caribbean tour as a rite of passage, like circumcision or body piercing, something that had to be done but with reluctance and trepidation in equal measure and with the hope that not too much pain is inflicted on the way.

That the England batsmen survived unscathed on such an appalling pitch was, in part, down to the benevolence of Courtney Walsh in not subjecting them to the terrifying prospect of him and the rejuvenated Patrick Patterson bowling fast on the equivalent of a corrugated roof.

The England bowlers played their part by dismissing Jamaica 108 for eight over-

night, for the addition of 17 runs yesterday morning — 12 short of avoiding the follow-on — and then for 96 in the second innings to win emphatically by an innings and 65 runs.

The villain of the piece has been a pitch on which England, mindful of the damage that one rogue delivery can do — say, to Alec Stewart's vulnerable right forefinger — would have been forgiven for condemning before the start.

Had Jamaica avoided the follow-on, there would certainly have been a case for immediately pulling the plug on England's second innings since discretion would have been much the better part of valour in such circumstances.

"This was a substandard pitch for a first-class game," the England captain Michael

Atherton said afterwards. "It was damp at the start and obviously uneven. The key was that our batsmen applied themselves and worked out a way to score. Today when it picked up in pace it was a dangerous pitch."

Dean Headley's opening delivery of the morning, for example, leapt from a length to hit Kirk Powell on the forehead, and the ball with which he finished Jamaica's first innings left a trail, like that of a snail, as it shot insidiously along the ground and hit the very base of Onell Richards's off stump.

By contrast, successive deliveries of even bounce and pace have been as rare as a Rastafarian with a No. 1 crop. To play in such conditions batsmen need to jettison the MCC Coaching Manual and

rely instead on aviation charts for the high fliers and a map of the Bakerloo Line for the scuttlers.

Even fielding has been a lottery, with Jack Russell keeping to the pace bowlers while wearing a helmet and with the luxury of a long-stop.

Fourteen byes in Jamaica's first innings — and 15 in the England innings — might have been many more had the outfield not been allowed to grow to a height that might have passed for golf-course rough at the US Open but which is inappropriate for a cricket match.

"Why don't you lower your mower blades?" David Lloyd asked the groundsman before the game. "My mower," replied the groundsman by way of explanation, "is metric."

The job still has to be done, of course, and early note will have been taken along the Caribbean of the bowling, in particular that of

Headley who took four for 14 in the second innings to go with five for 35 in the first, and the batting in general, but particularly that of Graham Thorpe, whose 89 was his highest score in the West Indies.

The downside was the proliferation of no-balls: 21 in Jama-

ica's first innings and 10 in their second. The pitch has no bearing on the bowling of such deliveries, and Headley, with 11 in the first and only one in the second as he gained his rhythm, and Phil Tufnell, with 16 in all, have no excuse. A win cannot mask slapdash cricket and there is work to be done.

It took Headley, bowling in tandem with Tufnell, a little more than half an hour to finish off the first innings, and once Atherton enforced the follow-on there was little doubt that the game would not enter a fourth day.

The demises, though, were rapid with only the opener Robert Samuels, with 26, preventing extras from top-scoring in both innings and the tail-ender Brian Murphy adding 22 to his 28 in the first before he was last out, caught at long off by Stewart. Headley took three wickets in four overs and when Andy Caddick bowled Andre Coley, the job was all but done at 79 for eight.

DARREN GOUGH may miss all five Test matches in the West Indies because he needs a minor operation on his damaged hamstring.

The fast bowler had hoped to fly to Trinidad early next month but the surgery, to relieve pressure on the hamstring tendon and improve circulation for a longer-lasting recovery, means his fitness will not be reassessed for another four weeks.

England's chairman of selectors David Graveney said that, with the tour continuing until the second week of April, Gough had a realistic chance of joining the party. "That possibility, providing he regains full fitness, should be a major incentive for him during his rehabilitation."

However, with the Test series ending on March 24 it would appear Gough's best chance of playing on the tour is in the five one-day internationals that round it off.

Gough may miss Test series because of minor surgery

## Scoreboard

ENGLAND XI		Jamaica	
First innings (overnight, 170-4)		First innings (overnight, 108-8)	
G P Thorpe c Samuels b Murphy	89	R O Samuels c Russell b Tufnell	26
R O Samuels c Coley b Williams	35	W Hinds c Russell b Caddick	6
A H Caddick b Williams	5	C O Adams c Stewart b Tufnell	0
D W Headley not out	16	M D Ventura b Headley	0
Score 108-8 (1st day)	32	G P Thorpe c Stewart b Tufnell	22
Second innings (overnight, 150-3)		Second innings (overnight, 150-3)	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-22, 3-28, 4-35, 5-35, 6-35, 7-35, 8-35, 9-35, 10-35, 11-35, 12-35, 13-35, 14-35, 15-35, 16-35, 17-35, 18-35, 19-35, 20-35, 21-35, 22-35, 23-35, 24-35, 25-35, 26-35, 27-35, 28-35, 29-35, 30-35, 31-35, 32-35, 33-35, 34-35, 35-35, 36-35, 37-35, 38-35, 39-35, 40-35, 41-35, 42-35, 43-35, 44-35, 45-35, 46-35, 47-35, 48-35, 49-35, 50-35, 51-35, 52-35, 53-35, 54-35, 55-35, 56-35, 57-35, 58-35, 59-35, 60-35, 61-35, 62-35, 63-35, 64-35, 65-35, 66-35, 67-35, 68-35, 69-35, 70-35, 71-35, 72-35, 73-35, 74-35, 75-35, 76-35, 77-35, 78-35, 79-35, 80-35, 81-35, 82-35, 83-35, 84-35, 85-35, 86-35, 87-35, 88-35, 89-35, 90-35, 91-35, 92-35, 93-35, 94-35, 95-35, 96-35, 97-35, 98-35, 99-35, 100-35, 101-35, 102-35, 103-35, 104-35, 105-35, 106-35, 107-35, 108-35, 109-35, 110-35, 111-35, 112-35, 113-35, 114-35, 115-35, 116-35, 117-35, 118-35, 119-35, 120-35, 121-35, 122-35, 123-35, 124-35, 125-35, 126-35, 127-35, 128-35, 129-35, 130-35, 131-35, 132-35, 133-35, 134-35, 135-35, 136-35, 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## Racing

Jockey Club put Cheltenham Festival race qualifier under the spotlight after eight horses are pulled out. Chris Hawkins reports

## Gold Card deficit investigated

THE Jockey Club is investigating the curious circumstances of a race at Warwick on Saturday when eight of the 26 intended runners did not go to post for one reason or another.

Horses declared at the over-11 stage for the Ian Williams-owned Gold Card Handicap Hurdle, whether they run or not, automatically qualify for the final of the event at the Cheltenham Festival.

The Warwick stewards decided to refer the matter to Portman Square because of the large number of withdrawals in this one event; in the remaining six races there were only three non-runners, two of these because connections chose to go to Ascot instead.

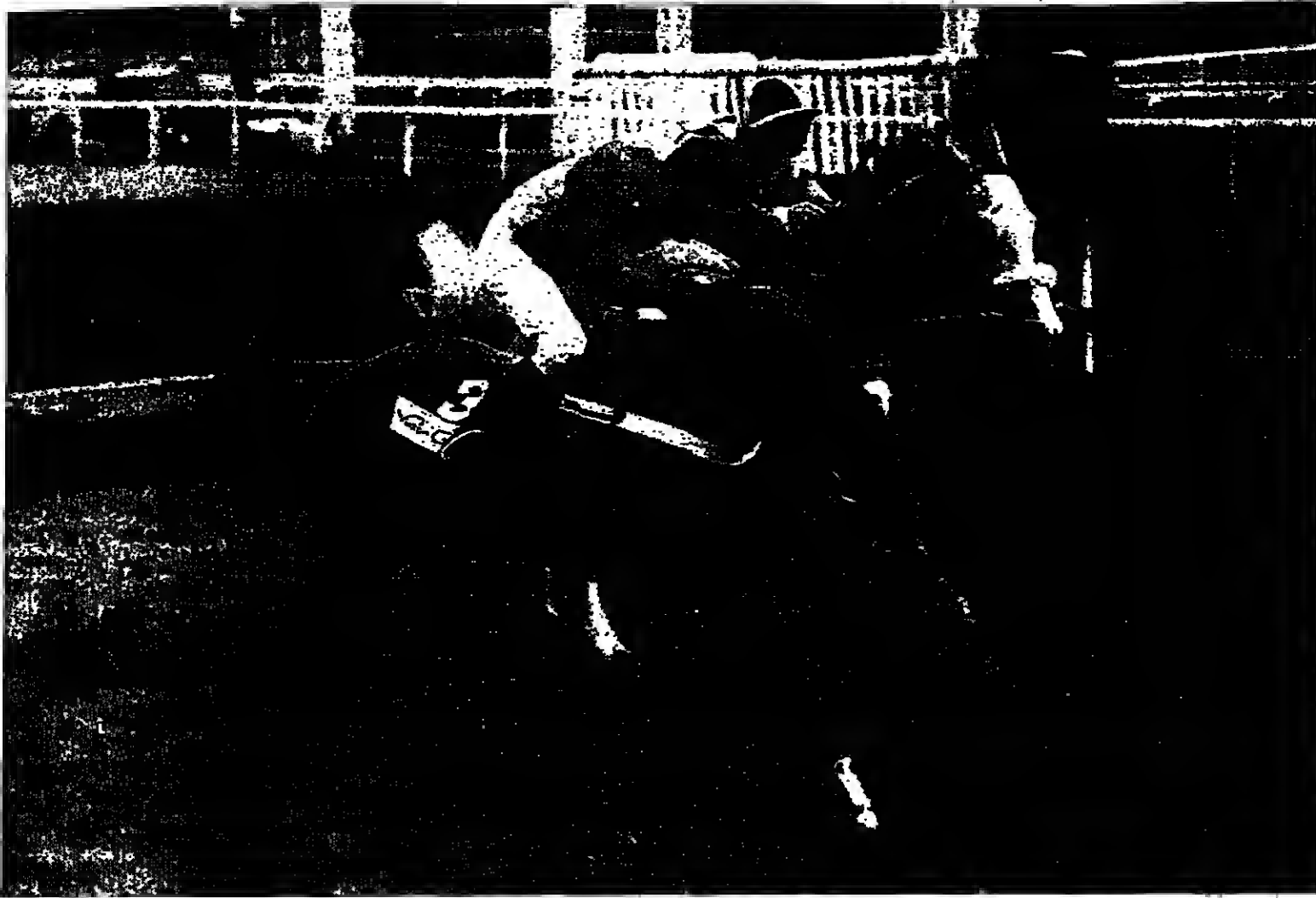
Pleasureland was withdrawn because of the ground and Roger Curtis, his trainer, fined £105, but Sohrab and Unsinkable, both trained by Martin Pipe, Lord Jim, the forecast favourite trained by Jim Old, Beggar's Banquet (Peter Beaumont), Marine Society (Andrew Hobbs), Arctic (Liam Ryan) (Mark Bradstock) and Folly Road (Kevin McAluffe) were taken out on veterinary advice.

Veterinary certificates were produced for Arctic Triumph and Unsinkable Boxer, but certificates for the others will apparently be faxed to the Jockey Club today.

Old said: "I withdrew Lord Jim because he had a bruised pastern. I fully intended to run him. Yesterday I rang Weatherby to see if he was qualified, as stated in the race conditions, and was told that there may be a change of mind in view of what happened."

"The fact that the qualifying races are over two-and-a-half miles and the final is over three and a quarter is ridiculous."

Whatever the merits of the particular cases here, the rule that allows a horse to run in



Irish eyes are smiling... Jeffell (far side) begins to overhaul Cellmate after jumping the last fence at Ascot

PHOTOGRAPH BY JILLIAN HERRINGTON FOR THE GUARDIAN

the final merely through being entered for a qualifier is clearly open to exploitation.

The race itself was won by Splendid Thyme, trained by Terry Casey, who will enter him for three events at the Festival — the Stayers' Hurdle, the Coral Cup and the Gold Card Final.

Kim Bailey, who has announced the retirement of

Master Oaks, his 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, produced an exciting young chaser in Chavale De Guerre, an easy six-length winner of the Roscoe Harvey Memorial Novice Chase on his debut.

At Ascot, Arthur Moore, the Irish trainer, continued his domination of the big Saturday bookmaker-sponsored races when Jeffell won the Victor Chandler Chase, Moore won the William Hill Hurdle with Major Jamie last month and The Ladbrokes Hurdle with Graphic Equaller last week.

Jeffell, a giant grey, and the gallant runner-up Cellmate put in a round of exhibition jumping which proved too much for their rivals, none of

whom was able to mount a challenge. As Jeffell is highly strung, Moore does not see him as a Cheltenham horse and will sell him to the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Moore will be attempting the nap hand with Graphic Equaller in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury next month, for which the sponsors make him 100-30 favourite, having cut Cadogan, a promising second on this Ascot card, to 12-1 from 15-1.

John Dunlop will take over the training of Ascot Gold Cup winner Celtic from the late David Morley.

Tomorrow's scheduled meeting at Carlisle has been abandoned due to waterlogging.

Sharks hope to sign one Australian half-back but give up on another

THE SHARKS hope to sign one Australian half-back but give up on another.

Jackson, however, may end up at Castleford, because they have offered £25,000 to Halifax whereas Sheffield's contract offer is conditional on the player being declared a free agent.

However, Hull has refused a work permit.

The Rugby League's transfer tribunal will have two cases to consider on Friday. It will have to set a fee for Chris Smith's move from Castleford to St. Helens and rule on the transfer of the Halifax and former Great Britain second-row Michael Jackson, who agreed to sign for Sheffield Eagles this weekend.

## Fontwell runners and riders plus form guide

TONY PALLEY	TOP FORM
1.15	Georgie (Pop)
1.45	Perryman
2.15	Paddy's Storm
2.45	Waggon Lady
3.15	Waggon Lady
4.15	Young General

Hurdle course left-handed one of about 110; chase course a figure of eight, 100 yards the round type of horse.

Going: Soft. 10-12. Wind: North. 10-12. Rain: None. Forecast: Soft. 10-12. Wind: North. 10-12. Rain: None.

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## Southwell eight-race all-weather Jackpot programme

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1.45	Perryman
2.15	Paddy's Storm
2.45	Waggon Lady
3.15	Waggon Lady
4.15	Young General

12.30 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP STAKES (DIV 1) 1m 22.085 (10 declared)

101	40-50	1m 22.085 (10 declared)
102	40-50	1m 22.085 (10 declared)
103	40-50	1m 22.085 (10 declared)
104	40-50	1m 22.085 (10 declared)



Football

Premiership: Newcastle 2, Bolton 1

# Georgian off his mind for a finale

Michael Walker  
sees Ketsbaia's  
moment of madness

**B**IZARRE, spectacular, astonishing, riveting, for 89 minutes Newcastle United versus Bolton Wanderers warranted none of those descriptions. But then in a stunning last minute, thanks to Temur Ketsbaia, all and more were appropriate, for this was the minute that witnessed the Georgian's descent from slick professional footballer with a fine right foot, calm demeanour and healthy bank balance ... to raging madness.

The fall began in the 80th minute of a disjointed affair in which Nathan Blake had deservedly equalised John Barnes's 20th goal in domestic football and which Bolton were unlucky to lose. In that minute Ketsbaia replaced the straw-weight Jon Dahl Tomasson and ran to where he was sent, out on the left. A couple of characteristic head-down dribbles followed but no breakthrough would come and it seemed Ketsbaia was destined to be part of another hugely unimpressive Newcastle performance.

No doubt this would have been the source of some disappointment both personally and professionally for Ketsbaia, but there was nothing to suggest the depth of the well of frustration he has been drinking from of late. The intensity of his despair, however, was to be shown in a final frantic minute in which he tapped in the winner after Alan Shearer had nodded Alessandro Pistone's cross to Darren Peacock; Keith Brannagan was ruffled by Peacock's challenge and his punch out fell to Ketsbaia.

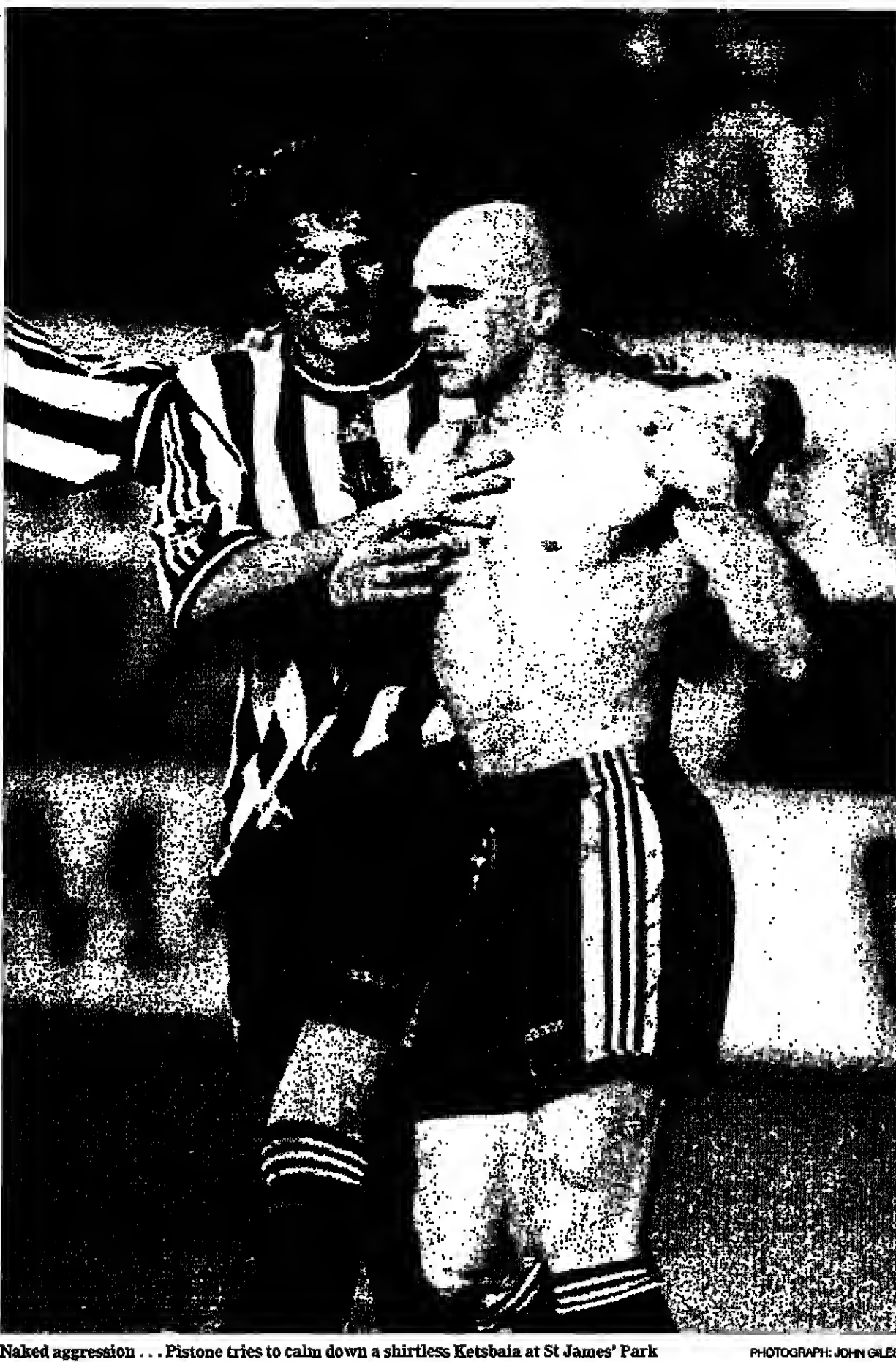
Now you might think that coming on as a substitute and scoring Newcastle's first winner in the Premiership since November would be the cause of some celebration. But not for Ketsbaia; the Georgian had lunacy on his mind. He ran to the advertising hoarding (Adidas — the club's

kit makers) and launched his size nines into it with a biblical vengeance. He then removed his shirt and chucked it on to the Gallowgate. Pistone's attempts to join the jubilation were shrugged off with an elbow of Faustino Asprilla proportions and the Italian was told to get off — Ketsbaia's English is coming on — and he then tried to take off his boots too. Luckily that last reel-kick proved too much and, with everyone else beginning to trot back for the restart, Ketsbaia joined them slowly. His anger had not abated, though. Still shirtless, he began shouting towards Kenny Dalglish while making aggressive one-arm gestures. These looked rather unpleasant and Dalglish appeared as if he was about to be hit. At this point John Beresford had seen enough and locked Ketsbaia in a half-nelson of which Mick McManus would have been proud. Ketsbaia was displeased by this — he and Beresford are said to have continued their spat in the tunnel — and remained half-naked until his shirt was retrieved from the crowd and handed back dismissively by Shearer.

Ketsbaia snatched it from him and put it back on, reluctantly, but he was still not finished. The first time the ball came to him he whacked it sideways straight into touch. It all looked like a most public resignation and his colleagues just stared at him. The final whistle went and presumably Ketsbaia sped off to Northumberland to bark at the moon, but not before icing a fantastical display with the remark: "I know it was unusual but I wasn't angry, I was happy." Of course he was.

Dalglish, publicly, was not angry either — "He's emotional, sure, didn't he burst into tears after scoring in Zagreb?" — but his private reaction was probably somewhat different. It will be interesting to see what part, if any, Ketsbaia plays at St James' Park tomorrow night.

Whatever, he can sleep soundly knowing he has given us a moment that will be hard to beat in 1998. Thanks Temur.



Naked aggression ... Pistone tries to calm down a shirtless Ketsbaia at St James' Park

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

Leicester City 0, Liverpool 0

# Elliott the wage earner

Russell Thomas

**T**HE warm applause rippling from the stands at the end could have been for any of Leicester's sheer effort. Neutral observers were left cold.

Leicester players and management echoed their fans' sentiment, seeing this as a precious point from a contest of unequals, given Liverpool's cash and recent Premiership form. Everyone took pride in the cameo of Matt Elliott towering, physically and metaphorically, over Liverpool's multimillion-seeking Robbie Fowler. The so-called journeyman, on £4,000 a week, eclipsed the so-called star soon to be earning around £40,000 a week.

Liverpool, in turn, intoned respect for their limited hosts. "This is a hard place to play," gushed Jamie Redknapp. "It's always very difficult against Leicester," cautioned Roy Evans, memory nagged by that 1-2 flop in

August against Martin O'Neill's men. No one mentioned that Leicester have not won at home in the league for almost three months.

Yet if this, according to Tony Cottee, was a "slightly off day" for Liverpool after five successive Premiership victories, then "there's more to come" — not off days but more quality. Is there? On this evidence, as Cottee conceded, Manchester United can start counting their championship bonuses now.

Even allowing for the problems Leicester pose — and pace and creativity are clearly not among them — this sterile game confirmed the fact that Liverpool's mediocre pack is pursuing the next-best European prizes on offer.

Only the bespectacled Kasey Keller, allowed largely to make an untroubled study of the visitors, departed from Leicester to Liverpool. "If anybody has a chance of catching United," said the American, "it will probably be Blackburn. Really it's

United's title to lose."

David James had progressed slightly less to worry about — barring a late, low drive from the indefatigable Elliott — as Liverpool maintained their air of improved stability at the back. Dominic Matteo gave another good performance but his side still lack a genuinely commanding defender. Little wonder that, despite the latest managerial details, Elliott and Liverpool continue to be linked.

Steve McManaman ran and ran, usually nowhere. Curiously, considering the success of it in the clubs' first match, Pontus Kasperk was not set to mark him. Arguably the ends justified the change of means.

Another England icon, Liverpool's club captain Paul Ince, is 30 and showing signs of wear and tear. Again the £4.5 million defender conceded that Liverpool's predicament was predictable. "I've been in this position before," he said. "I've been in this position before." Perhaps the Lion of Rome has been in too many wars.

Leeds United 1, Sheffield Wednesday 2

# Graham cracks the whip

George Caution

**G**EORGE GRAHAM was attired in Savile Row's finest rather than uniform and jackboots, choosing to walk rather than goose-step to his podium in the press-room.

Once there the Leeds manager smiled politely and calmly answered questions for 10 minutes without displaying any hint of his so-called dictatorial tendencies. It was difficult to reconcile this erudite figure with the description penned by the former Leeds midfielder Carlton Palmer, who claimed that Graham "rules by fear".

Until, that is, Graham spoiled it all by calling a halt to proceedings to explain the delayed appearance of his star striker, Michael Biehn. Predictably spleen was vented at his favoured minority target, footballers.

"The reason why I'm late is that Rod Wallace is off-

cially on the transfer list," he said. "I told him after the game that the club has now made the decision for him because of a lack of cooperation from him and his agent in sitting down and discussing a new contract. We know Rod's agent is hawking him around other clubs."

This was a strangely soulless Yorkshire derby; pace but no urgency, skill but little application, and effort without ferocity of purpose. When lacking the latter, Leeds are undone.

The exceptions to the teatime were few. Wednesday's Peter Raulo offered sporadic glimpses of the close control and distribution which had so terrorised Newcastle the previous weekend, and Harry Kewell offered a similar hollow performance.

If this had been a boxing match Ron Atkinson's side would have been awarded a split decision; Wednesday probably deserved their vic-

tory for the refreshing clarity of their 82nd-minute winner. The right-back Ian Nolan sent a deep cross beyond the far post, where Andy Booth fired in an imperious half-volley. Energy, strength, attitude, commitment and drive were the adjectives Atkinson used later to describe Wednesday's performance, euphemisms for paltry entertainment. It was in keeping with a messy game that the Leeds equaliser had come by default, Mark Pembroke's momentum producing an own-goal after Kewell slanted in a cross.

It was equally typical that, once Graham had attempted to plug the gaps down Leeds' right flank with two half-time substitutions, Wednesday's goals both originated there. For the first, Mark Pembroke's equaliser was disallowed after he followed up a Bruce Dyer shot which hit an upright. Nicky Eaden also made a goal-line clearance from Dyer.

Tottenham Hotspur 1, West Ham United 0

# Redknapp may pay for his passion

Martin Thorpe

**C**HRISTIAN GROSS must have been pleasantly surprised by Saturday's outcome. Not the fact that his struggling Tottenham side picked up their first league win in four games but that the disparaging aftermath headlines were for once not about him.

One would struggle to find a friendlier, more passionate manager than Harry Redknapp, but at White Hart Lane he let that ardour boil over into anger and as a result faces the possibility of an FA disciplinary charge.

So does his Ivory Coast-born striker Samass' Abou, whose sending-off after 42 minutes marred what had been a compelling game of football played hard, but for the moon part fair. That was until Abou challenged Stephen Carr for the ball with a robustness that Carr's teammate Ramon Vega failed to appreciate.

As Abou walked by him, Vega deliberately pushed into the West Ham striker who, in retaliation, stupidly kicked the back of Vega's leg.

Vega went down and the linesman alerted David Elleray who, despite protests from Abou, flourished the red card. The skilful striker, who speaks no English, then compounded his felony by twice grabbing Elleray.

Redknapp had walked down the touchline to prevent further trouble, but the gesture had exactly the opposite effect. Seconds after Elleray had invited Redknapp on to the pitch to pull off the animated Abou, Spurs' Colin Calderwood ran up to the West Ham manager and shouted in his face: "He's kicked him."

Redknapp shouted back, "No, Vega's an actor," and ag-

itatedly pushed Calderwood away. The manager then had to be physically restrained from running his attack.

Redknapp's actions not only worsened an already fraught situation but acted as an incitement to a large chunk of the West Ham crowd, who then tried to push their way on to the pitch. Afterwards Elleray said he would send a video of the Abou and Redknapp incidents to the Football Association to see if it required further action.

Redknapp tried to brush off the confrontation with Calderwood. "Did I really push him?" he asked unconvincedly. The manager's views of the Abou incident were equally suspect. He cast doubt on Abou's kick by accusing Vega of "going down as if he were dead" and "getting the boy sent off" but then admitted: "I never saw Abou's kick, to be truthful."

The point is that retaliation in any shape is outlawed. And Abou was wrong not just for hitting back, in getting sent off he undermined West Ham's chances in a game that until then they had largely controlled.

Spurs had taken the lead after a 20-minute interval when Jürgen Klinsmann stretched in front of Rio Ferdinand to direct David Ginola's excellent cross past Craig Forrest for his first goal since his second coming. But West Ham took charge of the rest of the half with Spurs' stand-in goalkeeper Espen Baardsen making some excellent saves.

Though Spurs worked hard and Nicola Bert, making his home debut, added drive to their midfield, they failed to extend their lead. But with three points and a win, Ferdinand due back from injury next Saturday, things are looking up.

Barnsley 1, Crystal Palace 0

# Coppell given food for thought

Derek Potter

**A**PART from talking about the over-fussy referee who hooked seven, much of the chat after a robust yet never vicious contest between two teams fighting for survival among the wealthy elite was about hunger.

"I have got my appetite back," said Tomas Broin, whose figure suggests he has been enjoying good food. What the Swedish forward meant, of course, was that he is happy to be at Palace after his troubled spell with Leeds United and he has the motivation to rediscover the fitness that made him a feared player. "I will be there for four weeks before I'm fully fit, and I hope Steve Coppell stays [as manager]; I can work with him."

Neither manager could quibble about the appetite of his players, though Coppell, who found his way into Palace's kitchen, could have been excused a nervous twitch or two.

A team with such a powerful away record as Palace must have been hugely disappointed when Broin's equaliser was disallowed after he followed up a Bruce Dyer shot which hit an upright. Nicky Eaden also made a goal-line clearance from Dyer.

Such recollections will not deter Barnsley, who continued their habit of winning after a savage defeat in this case the 6-0 hiding at West Ham, described by their manager Danny Wilson "as our worst performance yet".

Despite this fourth league win at Oakwell this season, Barnsley stay at the foot of the table but only four points separate this bottom seven.

Moreover they won with teamwork and determination against a side without the suspended central defenders Arjan de Zeeuw and Adie Moses. Ashley Ward's winning goal summed up the match. It was the product of a determined run in which he deceived Andy Linington before firing in a strong shot which beat Kevin Miller, whose earlier save from the hard-working Neil Redfearn had kept Palace in the hunt for a 20th away point of this season.

Just as a 20th away point, did enough to suggest that his height and experience will be useful back-up for Ward, whose goal was his sixth since his £1 million switch from Derby County. On their travels Palace are a different proposition. They have scored only one goal in their last four away games, but their home record to equal Barnsley's — they would be in eighth place — or seventh heaven.

## Euro 2000

# Groups offer few clues

**I**T MAY not be the Group of Death — Group Four, with France, Russia and Ukraine, has some claim to the title — but it is tough enough to be going on with. These matters are impossible to establish at this stage. The 1998 World Cup finals in France will change the landscape of European football in ways that are guaranteed to surprise us. And then national teams will be registered for European Championship qualifying, with new coaches and younger players.

By the time Bulgaria play England, for example, they may be unrecognisable from the team that burst into the semi-finals of the 1996 World Cup. Here we look at how they — and other key contenders — will shape up.

Robert Pryce

## The threat to England

**Poland**  
POLES know two things about major championships. They will be drawn in a group with England. And they won't qualify.

The first has always been true, but don't count on the second. Polish football is in a mess, with top clubs going bust and leading players deserting the national team, but given the right coach and a concerted effort they could prove to have a team capable of living with the best.

Recent record: Have failed six times in succession to qualify for the finals of a major competition.

Coach: Janusz Wojcik is the fifth incumbent in the past two years. Key player: Andrzej Jurkiewicz played little part in the World Cup campaign after falling out with Andoni Pichniczek, one of Wojcik's predecessors, but if he can be won over he will be a considerable asset, a striker in his prime with considerable experience in Europe.

Also look out for Marek Citko who has been the outstanding player in the Polish League, a fast, penetrative left-winger who could set problems for Glenn Hoddie's full-backless defence. And Marcin Mielniak, a 22-year-old forward of surprising grace and balance.

## Bulgaria

THE 1998 World Cup may be the last opportunity for an outstanding generation of Bulgarian footballers to shine. The European Championship is likely to be a step too far.

Hristo Stoichkov, the defenders' nightmare, will be 34 when the finals come around. Trifon Ivanov, the defender who looks like a nightmare, will be almost 33. And many of the other players elevated to stardom by their success in the 1996 World Cup — including Yordan Luchkov, whose header knocked out West Germany in the quarter-finals — will be well into their thirties.

Recent record: Reached 1994 World Cup semi-finals; failed to reach Euro 96 second round; qualified for 1998 World Cup finals. Coach: Hristo Bonev has shown great patience and tact in handling the impossible task of succeeding Dimitar Penev. Even Stoichkov was won over; after leading a players' boycott in support of Penev, he made his peace with Bonev by presenting him with a bouquet of flowers.

Key player: Krasimir Balakov is likely to be right at the hub of the team. Most of the rest of the positions are up for grabs. Also look out for: Marian Erstov, an athletic blond who plays in the hole.

## Sweden

A HOME defeat by Austria should have given some clue; failure to qualify for the World Cup finals in Group Four. Have played in only one European finals since 1994 — as hosts six years ago.

Coach: Tommy Soderberg. Key player: Jesper Blomqvist, once the scourge of Manchester United with FK Gotteburg, is now with Milan.

Also look out for: Jorgen Pettersson, a 22-year-old with a good touch and some knowledge of how to use it, is a very promising striker.

## The threat to Ireland

### Croatia

A wonderfully talented bunch of players needs help from the emerging generation if Croatia are to make a mark on the next World Cup and European Championship.

The front pairing of Alan Boksic and Davor Suker still looks formidable. Steven Ilie and Igor Stumac remain at the heart of the defence, but the midfield needs help. Aljosa Asanovic, the Derby midfielder, has not played for a while and Robert Prosinecki, whose exploits touch once illuminated the Real Madrid midfield, has been rejected by Barcelona, though his recent performances in the Croatian League suggest that he may not be quite as crooked as he looked.

Recent record: Reached the quarter-finals of their first European Championship in England in 1996. Qualified for France 98 with a play-off defeat of Ukraine after finishing second to Denmark.

Coach: Miroslav Blazevic has survived criticism and a difficult World Cup qualifying campaign. Key player: Davor Suker, the Real Madrid striker who can be counted among the world's deadliest finishers. Also look out for: Robert Spehar has a goalscoring record to suggest he may yet emerge as a key striker.

### Yugoslavia

They are over their international suspension — a crushing victory over Hungary in the World Cup play-offs confirmed — and they have the talent to go on making an impact. But they will miss Dejan Savicevic. The free-running midfielder with his blazing left foot, who on his day could be one of the world's most exciting players, is unlikely to play much of it. He is already 31 and Milan seem ready to write him off.

Recent record: After their international suspension, which unfortunately kept them from taking their place in the 1992 European Championship finals and subsequent tournaments, they came back to finish second in their World Cup qualifying group and crush Hungary in the play-offs. Coach: Slobodan Santrac. Key player: Predrag Mijatovic, who forms a strong and clever Slavic strike force with Croatia's Davor Suker at Real Madrid, came into his own in the World Cup qualifying campaign.

Also look out for: Dragan Ciric has survived being tagged "the new Savicevic" to emerge as the most exciting of the new generation of Yugoslavs.

## The threat to Scotland

This group will do to be going on with. After the Czech Republic, who are the major threat, the only dangers to Scotland's qualification are likely to be the fight to the Faroe Islands and a gruelling kick-off time with Estonia.

After their cautious progress to the Euro 96 final the Czechs have made little impact. They were unfortunate to be drawn in the same World Cup group as Spain and Yugoslavia, but

### Wales

ITALY will be overwhelming favourites to head this section even though, in the finals, they have consistently underachieved since their sole triumph in the competition, when they took the trophy in their own country 30 years ago. For Italians, Euro 96 remains a bad memory, but both the team and their scoring form will be confident of another long World Cup run this summer. Denmark, also competing in France 98, appear the obvious threat to the Azurri and will point to their astonishing success in Euro 92 in Sweden as proof of what their players, possessing ability and resourcefulness, can achieve.

The Swiss could well vie with Denmark for a play-off place and, sadly, this looks like yet another group too strong for Wales, as well as Bulgaria.

### Northern Ireland

NORTHERN IRELAND's recent record against Germany has been impressive, including a 1-1 draw in Nuremberg in a World Cup qualifier in November 1996.

They have conceded much for several years but continue to fall short of their potential. Their failure to qualify for next summer's World Cup finals followed a gruelling and disappointing Euro 96 at which they lost all three of their matches and failed to score.

Finland, who have never qualified for the finals of a major tournament, were denied a place in the play-offs for France 96 by a last-minute Hungarian equaliser. England's comfortable defeats of Moldova, who finished bottom of qualifying Group Two without a point, suggest the Eastern Europeans will pose little threat.





**Quick start**  
England race  
to victory in  
the West Indies  
**page 12**

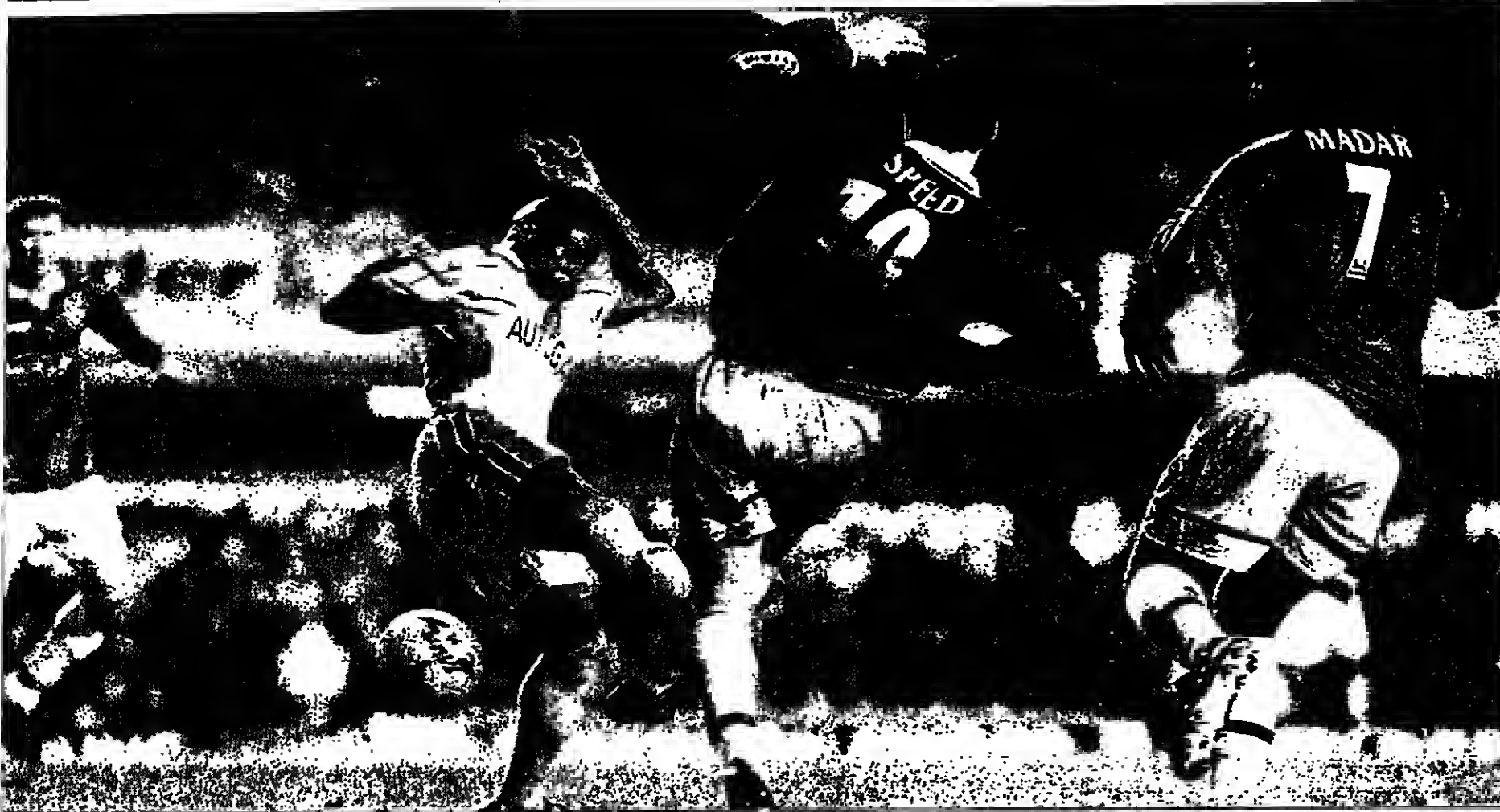
#### Other pages

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# The Guardian Sport

Monday January 19 1998

www.football.guardian.co.uk



Sharp Speed... Chelsea's Frank Sinclair fails to block the Everton captain's shot as he slots in his team's equaliser from an unsympathetic angle

PHOTOGRAPH: ALEX LIVESLEY

Premiership: Everton 3, Chelsea 1

## Chelsea belief ebbs away

Ian Ross

IT IS generally accepted that, on a miserable, unappealing afternoon such as this, Chelsea's little credentials will either be reaffirmed or exposed as of rather dubious substance.

The suspicion has always been that any team who are stuffed to the gills with foreign players will hardly relish the prospect of standing toe to toe with a bunch of desperate northerners when the wind is blowing and the rain is cascading down.

This, possibly, was a suitable occasion to trot out those clichés about northern grit and southern softies, the argument spanning generations and dividing a nation.

Yesterday, Everton's spirit carried them to a fourth win in five Premiership games. Chelsea's lack of spirit condemned them to a seventh league defeat. End of story.

Chelsea's manager Ruud Gullit was angry and he had every right to be. "We were sloppy and you can't be like that at this level," he said. "Good teams don't give things away, but we did today. Everton deserved to win the game and now, in terms of the championship, we have a lot to do."

"Chelsea has made some giant steps forward in a short period and maybe I ask a little bit too much of my players sometimes."

Yet Chelsea could have won as comfortably as they eventually lost. Everton often threatened to extend the tra-

ditional scouse hospitality way beyond acceptability.

So generous were they, particularly in a four first half, that Chelsea were not required to add diligence to technique. They simply waited for possession to be presented to them.

Everton's midfield began to resemble a soup kitchen, happily doling out sustenance to any Chelsea player with that needy look.

That Chelsea did not profit, or even shape to take full advantage, was mystifying, for Everton could barely conceal the fact that they were there for the taking. It was an unforgivable timidity which Gullit's men were ultimately to regret.

This was a poor game in poor conditions, an afternoon which did not boast a shot

until the 32nd minute when Everton's Tony Grant struck an advertising hoarding, and one which did not yield a genuine chance until Chelsea deservedly moved in front eight minutes before half-time.

The build-up to the goal represented such a shining beacon in the thickening gloom that even the Everton faithful must have been tempted to applaud. The execution, though, was messy.

Steve Clarke's cross from the left prompted panic and although Tore Andre Flo's initial effort was blocked by Carl Tiler, he displayed the presence of mind to push home at the second attempt.

The goal will have brought a wry smile to the lips of at least one man steeped in the Everton tradition. Joe Royle's managerial reign at Goodison

Park ended last March after his request to buy Flo from the Norwegian club Brann Bergen fell on deaf ears. Royle's authority had been undermined and he quit. Flo promptly opted for a slightly different shade of blue and, of course, he succeeded in proving a point yesterday.

Astonishingly, Chelsea's lead was to last barely three minutes. Again it was an untidy affair, Gary Speed turning the ball in from an unsympathetic angle as the French forward Michael Madaar protested furiously that his header had been prevented from crossing the line by Frank Sinclair's outstretched arm.

Thereafter Chelsea continued to hold both sway and much of the possession but, significantly, the better of the

opportunities were beginning to fall to Everton feet. Duncan Ferguson and Madaar were to be denied by rather fortunate deflections before Chelsea's resolve — as Gullit later conceded — began to weaken.

Just after the hour Ferguson threaded through a crowded penalty area to reach Nick Barmby's corner and send home a firm header. It was a telling blow from which Chelsea were never to recover.

Even so, it took a bizarre own-goal by Michael Duberry with only seven minutes remaining — a swerving drive into the far corner — to confirm this was to be Everton's day — they rose three places to 13th — and, quite possibly, not Chelsea's season.

### Euro 2000

## Hoddle remains undaunted

David Lacey in  
Ghent on a qualifying  
group to test the  
manager's mettle

FOR England some familiar waters lie beyond this summer's World Cup. But if Glenn Hoddle is to qualify for the 2000 European Championship in similar style, his team will need to maintain their present standard of navigation.

Yesterday's draw here for the Euro 2000 qualifiers challenged England to repeat the performances, especially the away performances, that have taken them to France. Even if Group Five is not a group of death, most of the other eight appear happy-go-lucky by comparison.

It almost goes without saying that to reach Holland and Belgium, the joint hosts of Euro 2000, England will have to overcome Poland, whom they are clearly fated to meet in perpetuity. But Bulgaria look a bigger threat and Sweden, World Cup semi-finalists in 1994, are due a change of fortune after failing to qualify for France.

Luxembourg, Hoddle's other opponents, swore in 1983 that they would never entertain English opposition again after their little national stadium was trashed by visiting fans for a second time. Paul Philipp, the Luxembourg coach, cited Euro 96 as a good omen but any misbehaviour by England fans in France will not do much to change the Grand Duchy's mind.

With the nine group winners and the best runners-up joining the two hosts in the tournament proper, England's group is obviously going to be tight. The remaining eight second-placed teams will play off home and away to produce the last four qualifiers.

After the draw Hoddle marked down Bulgaria as the main danger. "They gained respect throughout the game for their performances in the last World Cup," he said, "and they could be our biggest problem."

"But in the World Cup qualifiers we won a group which contained Italy, Poland and Georgia and this is really no different; Bulgaria are not quite as strong as Italy and Sweden are a bit better than Georgia, that's all. And at least we're going to familiar places; we certainly know our way to Poland. The difficulty is going to be the strength of the opposition."

It is not easy at this stage to envisage where that strength will be concentrated. Although Bulgaria reached the semi-finals of the 1994 World

Cup by knocking out the holders Germany, they are an ageing side. The Poles, on the other hand, have been concentrating on youth development and as Tommy Soederberg, Sweden's coach, said yesterday: "Many of our squad get regular experience against England players in the Premiership so that should be an advantage for us."

There can be little England and Poland do not know about one another. With the exception of Euro 96, for which England qualified automatically as hosts, they have now joined the Poles in five successive qualifying competitions for World Cups and European Championships. For Hoddle the good news is that so far England have not been beaten.

The last time England met Sweden in a major tournament, however, Graham Taylor's team went out of the 1992 European Championship after a 2-1 defeat in Stockholm. Indeed England have

If this is not a group of death, most of the others appear happy-go-lucky

yet to beat the Swedes in a competitive fixture.

Ron Greenwood's superior England side, the team of Kevin Keegan, Trevor Brooking et al, twice beat Bulgaria 2-0 on the way to the 1990 European tournament. The last time the countries met Terry Venables' team won a warm-up for Euro 96 1-0.

The qualifiers start in September and when England negotiate fixture arrangements with their Group Five opponents they will hope that all but one of the home games can be at Wembley, where rebuilding is due to start in June 1999. The remainder will probably be played at Old Trafford.

Scotland are in one of the four six-nation groups, where the Czechs and Bosnia will be their rivals. Yugoslavia and Croatia pose the main threat to the Republic of Ireland in Group Eight, and Northern Ireland face Germany for the second successive qualifying competition.

In Group One Wales are up against Italy, Denmark, Switzerland and Belarus. Their manager Bobby Gouldid, however, did win the FA Cup with Wimbledon 10 years ago, and that after beating Liverpool in the final.

The danger men, page 15

Paul Hayward on the welcome and timely return of England's most lethal striker

## Shearer raises the roof

NEWCASTLE supporters think the club's name stands for players. Leave Continually. How joyous, then, that the exodus of exotic bodies should be halted by the return of potentially the greatest George of them all.

Seldom can the unzipping of an anorak have unleashed such euphoria. Just before 4.30pm Alan Shearer undid his sensible coat to stomach-flipping acclaim and galloped out to save Newcastle from their fans from themselves. Elsewhere in England, Andy Cole probably shuddered as he considered his chances of seizing the No. 9 shirt in France this summer, while Liverpool's Michael Owen doubtless felt merely a hopeful pup once more.

The most important season of Shearer's career had gone 33 games without him and the club he so adored as a boy had slipped into mediocrity and rancour. But such is the force-field around England's foremost striker that Kenny Dalglish must have been tempted to give him a phone-box in which to change from sidelined superstar into saviour of the George universe. Every stage of the disrobing was cheered like a scene from The Full Monty, and suddenly Newcastle looked a whole team again with a bit-man to occupy the wasteland of their fake forward line.

As Faustino Asprilla exited stage left, muttering paid-for regal thoughts (Dalglish has lost the plot etc), Shearer entered stage right. It was much later than he would have liked in the context of 90 minutes against Bolton but far sooner than medical science would normally

allow. Packed thighs and bulging calves were testament to the amount of sweat he has expended in the gym. If Robbie Fowler thinks he is worth £50,000 a week, what should Shearer's little brown envelope contain?

A strong suspicion emerged on Saturday that Dalglish is being let down by some of his players. Among supporters, this is the truth that dare not speak its name.

It must bring immense relief to Dalglish to know that no whippers need to be cracked around the feet of Alan Shearer.

His presence also compels any malingers in the team to get a move on and encourages the side to believe that games really can be won.

Shearer's body language would have made a good instructional video for aspiring youngsters. He knew the best he could hope for was a place on the subs' bench but wasn't keen to stay there for long after the half-time tea had been taken. He admitted to pestering Dalglish and his assistant Tommy Burns long before he was finally let off the leash after Bolton had equalised through Nathan Blake.

Shearer had been sprinting up and down the sleet strip of the sideline with increasing vigour and casting agitated looks at his manager.

"The fever gripping St James' Park may prove to have broken at the point when the now 34-year-old Jobo Barnes trudged off to be replaced by Shearer at centre-forward. Barnes had done his job all right, scoring Newcastle's first — his 20th league and cup goal — but 90 minutes of pre-datorial endeavour is now beyond him. The slower Barnes



Leaping into action... Shearer warms up for the moment everyone has been waiting for

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

has become, the further back he has been shifted in the team, but when Shearer, Asprilla and Ian Rush were all absent he found himself rushed back to the front, where he has performed with considerable valour and skill.

Shearer's contribution to a narrow and fortunate win was a couple of neat flick-ons and a header back across the goal to Temur Ketskhala, who finished the move but then started what may have been the most violently-composed resignation

letter in history. Kicking the hoardings, ripping off his shirt, waving his fist at the bench and shoving teammates.

In his first 18 minutes of action in six months, Shearer can claim to have played a significant part in Newcastle's first league victory in nine matches.

Good news for Newcastle, and a national triumph for England.

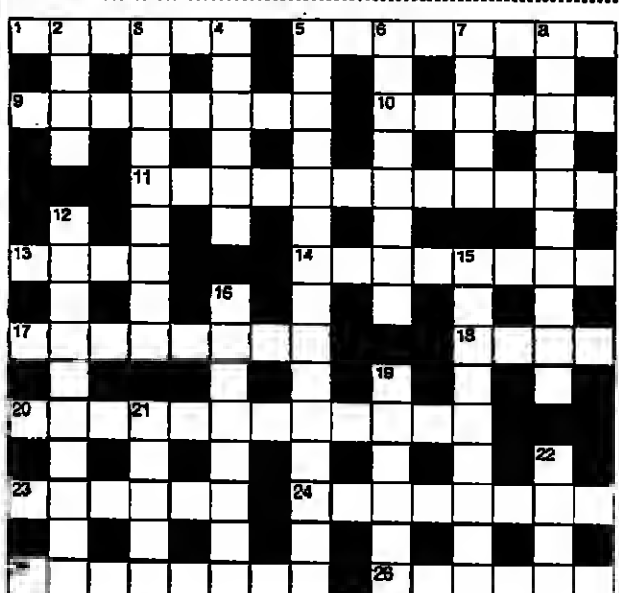
Michael Walker, page 15

### The Verdict

"It's a massive boost for us. But I think you've got to hang fire for four weeks. Alan's been out for a long time with the injury and, just because you come back and put a shirt on, it doesn't mean he's fit. I think we all need to be cautious and I'm sure Alan will be. We've got to make sure he gets through the next four weeks. Once he does that, gets through that amount of football, then hopefully we'll have a fit Alan Shearer."

Glenn Hoddle

### Guardian Crossword No 21,175



#### Across

- 1 Deserter held by soldiers without charge (6)
- 5 A few upset the owner, too (3,2,3)
- 9 Air force admiral? (8)
- 10 Food taken from the hand (6)
- 11 React badly to girl having a free hand (5,7)
- 13 It's bitter beer with nothing in it (4)
- 14 Accomplished players, but not very bright (8)
- 17 Overcame the fires of thirst? (8)
- 18 Does wrong, gets lines (4)
- 20 Record playing in the small hours — mood indigo? (12)
- 23 Sung or spoken at church (6)

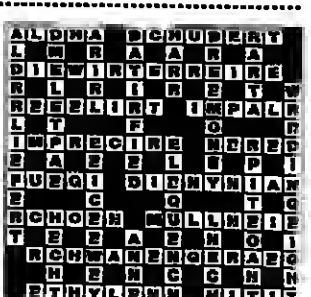
WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,168  
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Michael Swift of Consett, Co Durham, John Morris of Leeds, Michael Monaghan of Harrogate, Andy Leggett of Kaarst, Bielefeld, Germany, and D L Alfred of Brighton.

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 555 222. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS.

#### Down

- 2 Drum music (4)
- 3 Staff of police (8)
- 4 Searches thoroughly and flushes out (6)
- 5 Heading for disaster in car bound for Fountains Abbey, say (2,3,4,2,4)
- 6 Mummy would soon go to pieces were it not for him (8)
- 7 How to amuse wear in a new engine (3,2)
- 8 City's victory over another (10)
- 12 Grows in waves (10)

Set by Rufus



**Solution tomorrow**

**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
Recycled paper made up of 41% of the tree material in UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

ASPTT